U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
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Investigation: EQ 13-005
Prompted by: 13E-020
Date Opened: 07/30/2013 **Date Closed:** 12/24/2013
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Flip Seat Pinch Point

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: C. E. White Company
Products: CE White Flip Seat
Population: 2,160

Problem Description: When a passenger seat is located behind a Flip Seat, the occupant of the other seat may insert their toes and/or foot into the lower frame of the Flip Seat and could suffer a pinch point to their toes and/or foot.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This investigation is closed.

Summary:

The closing summary is attached.

EQ 13-005: CE White Flip Seat Has Possible Pinch Point (13E-020)

Closing Resume Summary

December 24, 2013

BACKGROUND

In a letter dated April 18, 2013, CE White notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in Flip Seat models: Flip Seat, Quasi Static "QSJ11" – 30", 36", 39"and 45"; Flip Seat, Student Safety Seat "SSSJ" – 30", 36", 39"and 45"; and, Flip Seat, School Bus Seat "SBJ" – 30", 36", 39"and 45", manufactured by The C.E. White Company (CE White). These Flip Seats were shipped to CE White customers between the dates of September 12, 2005 and January 31, 2013. When a Flip Seat is placed in a location in the bus with a seat located behind, it is possible for the occupant of the other seat to insert their toes and/or foot into the lower frame area of the Flip Seat. Should a passenger occupy the Flip Seat, the occupant of the seat located to the rear of the Flip Seat could suffer a pinch point injury to their toes and/or foot. CE White identified the total number of units affected to be 2,160. This matter was assigned recall number 13E-020.

On July 30, 2013, the Recall Management Division (RMD) opened this Equipment Query (EQ) Investigation in order to write the companies that purchased these Flip Seats, to notify them that this defect may exist in the vehicles they manufacture, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate. An Information Request (IR) letter was sent to seven (7) purchasers of CE White's Flip Seat on July 31, 2013.

INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSE

Four (4) manufacturers filed Part 573 Reports and conducted safety recalls for their affected vehicles. Those recalls are listed below:

	Manufacturer	Recall #
1	A-Z Bus Sales	13V-504
2	Blue Bird Corporation	13V-200
3	IC Bus Corporation, Tulsa Bus Plant	13V-320
4	TransTech Bus, Inc. (TCI)	13V-371

One (1) manufacturer, Allied Bus Sales, Inc., submitted a response explaining that the Flip Seats were quarantined in their facility prior to installation. The Flip Seats were returned to CE White and remedied prior to installation or sale.

One (1) company, Desert Sands, Unified School District, does not manufacture buses. They purchase the buses with the seats already installed. Desert Sands informed RMD that they are not conducting a recall.

One (1) company, Harlow's Bus Sales, Inc., submitted a response explaining that the flip seat was sold as an aftermarket parts sale. Harlow's Bus Sales informed RMD that they are not conducting a recall.

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION ACTION

RMD has identified all known vehicle and original equipment manufacturers and notified them of the CE White recall. All manufacturers have either filed recall reports and are conducting recalls or provided reasonable responses explaining why they are not conducting recalls. Accordingly, this equipment query investigation is closed. Copies of all documents associated with this investigation can be found in this Equipment Query's document repository by clicking the "Associated Documents" button.