U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-003
Prompted by: 13E-045
Date Opened: 01/30/2014 **Date Closed:** 07/17/2014
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Electric Door Actuator May Ignite

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: A&M Systems, Inc.
Products: Electric Door Actuator
Population: 5,530

Problem Description: Certain electric door actuator printed circuit boards may experience voltage spikes that may damage electrical components and electrical circuits, causing the PC board to develop high resistance.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Equipment Query Investigation is Closed

Summary:

The closing resume summary is attached

EQ 14-003: A&M Electric Door Actuator Circuit Board Fire

Closing Resume Summary

July 10, 2014

BACKGROUND

In a letter dated August 15, 2013, A&M Systems, Inc. (A&M) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain electric door actuator printed circuit (PC) boards, model number 3230 PC board, that were manufactured from August 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010. Anomalies such as voltage spikes may damage electrical components and electrical circuits, causing the circuit board to develop high resistance and thermal problems. High resistance may cause the circuit board to overheat, increasing the risk of a fire. This matter was assigned recall number 13E-045.

On January 30, 2014, the Recall Management Division (RMD) opened this Equipment Query (EQ) Investigation in order to write the companies that purchased these PC boards, to notify them of this defect in any vehicle or vehicle equipment they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.

Seven (7) vehicle manufacturers filed Part 573 Reports and announced intentions to conduct safety recalls for their affected vehicles prior to the opening of this EQ investigation. Those vehicle recall campaigns are:

Manufacturer	Recall
Champion Bus Inc.	13V-422
Coach & Equipment Manufacturing Corp.	13V-460
Collins Bus Corporation	13V-469
Eldorado KS	13V-408
Glaval Bus	13V-520
Turtle Top	13V-524
Goshen Coach	13V-410

In the 573 Defect Notification Report, A&M provided a customer list consisting of 249 companies who purchased the defective PC boards, and that it understood to be either motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment manufacturers. RMD decided that the best utilization of resources would be to contact the manufacturers who purchased more than 3 of the defective PC boards. After reviewing the customer list and removing the companies that filed Part 573 Reports before the investigation was opened, there were forty-seven (47) companies that purchased more than 3 PC boards, and 192 companies that purchased 3 or less. On February 3, 2014, an Information Request (IR) letter was sent to forty-seven (47) purchasers for which NHTSA had not been notified of a defect decision. On April 2, 2014, an Information Request (IR) letter was sent to twenty-two (22) purchasers who did not respond to the first IR letter.

A&M OEM RESPONSE

In response to the IR letters, 9 vehicle manufacturers filed a defect report and indicated they would conduct a recall of their vehicles. Starcraft Bus filed two separate 573 Reports, one for school buses and one for non-school buses. The vehicle recall campaigns are:

Manufacturer	Recall
Diamond Coach	14V-060
Double K	14V-209
Elkhart Coach	14V-048
Federal Coach	14V-231
GC Bus Acquisition Corp	13V-410
Gulf Stream Coach	14V-069
Midway Specialty Vehicles, LLC	14V-057
Starcraft Bus - Schoolbuses	14V-059
Starcraft Bus - Non Schoolbuses	14V-102
Tiffany Coachworks	14V-149

Thirty-four (34) manufacturers submitted responses explaining that they are not vehicle manufacturers. Many of these manufacturers are parts distributors and retailers who do not have any obligations to conduct safety recalls. Accordingly, the following manufacturers do not need to make a defect decision or conduct recall campaigns:

Manufacturer
Airline Transportation Company
Airserv Corporation (IN)
Airserv Corporation (TN)
Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority
All Points Bus Supply
Arizona Bus Sales
A-Z Bus Sales
Bay Area Bus Repair
Bus Group
Bus Service Inc.
Carolina Mobility Sales LLC
Coast RTA
Colonial Equipment Company
Creative Bus Sales
Davey Coach
EK Coaches
Harley's Electronics

Manufacturer
Intermountain Coach
Leeds Transit Inc.
Lewis Bus Group
National Bus Sales
North Central Bus Sales
Overland Custom Coach
Premier Bus Parts
Rivers Bus Sales
Specialty Vehicles
Supreme Corporation/Startrans Bus
Supreme Mid-Atlantic Corporation
Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky
Transit Plus
Transportation Collaborative Inc.
Truck & Trailer Systems
Truck Max
Western Bus Sales

One (1) manufacturer, Rural Transit Enterprises Coordinated Inc., submitted a response explaining that the PC boards were quarantined in their facility prior to installation. Since the defective PC boards were not installed on any vehicles and, were returned to A&M and remedied prior to installation or sale, this manufacturer is not conducting a recall campaign.

One (1) manufacturer, Crestline Coach Ltd., submitted a response explaining that all of the PC boards were installed on exported vehicles. Accordingly, this manufacturer is not conducting a domestic recall.

Two (2) manufacturers', Commercial Body Builders Ltd. and TMC Group, submitted responses explaining that they are no longer in business. Since they stopped operations and manufacturing, closed the facility and sold their assets, these manufacturers are not conducting recall campaigns.

Four (4) manufacturers did not submit written responses to RMD's IR letter, even after multiple attempts to contact them were made by RMD staff. These companies, listed below, will be referred to NHTSA's Office of the Chief Counsel for further possible enforcement action:

Manufacturer
Coachmen Motor Works
Eldorado CA
State Fleet Management
Super Sightseeing Tours

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION ACTION

All vehicle and motor vehicle equipment manufacturers with more than marginal purchases of the defective equipment have been identified and have either filed recall reports and are conducting recalls, or have provided responses explaining why they are not conducting recalls. Accordingly, this equipment query investigation is closed. Copies of documents associated with this investigation, including responses to IR letters, can be found in this Equipment Query's document repository by clicking the "Associated Documents" button.