U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: PE 15-004
Date Opened: 02/03/2015
Investigator: Ric Willard **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Seat Belt Buckle Inoperative

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: STALLION BUS INDUSTRIES, LLC
Products: MY 2014 Stallion 900 Tour Bus
Population: 100 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Seat belt buckles fail to operate resulting in the risk of lengthy egress in the event of an emergency.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has been in contact with a fleet that has experienced multiple incidents of driver and passenger seatbelt buckle assemblies failing to unlatch. These failures are identified in 4 complaints filed with NHTSA. The seatbelts, manufactured by Taizhou TIANDA Rope and Belt Co, are original equipment on certain Stallion 900 motorcoaches.

Preliminary evaluation suggests that two significantly different designs exist of the buckle assembly, P/N 67RB1-04021. At this time failures appear to be limited to one of the two designs. It is not yet clear if there is a predecessor / successor relationship between the two designs, and if so which is the predecessor.

ODI has been informed of multiple incidents that involved passengers having to be cut out of their seatbelts. ODI is aware of no injuries at this time and is opening this investigation to gather additional information to assess whether the subject vehicles contain a safety related defect.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID under the following identification (ODI) number: 10631019, 10632409, 10633199 and 10633213.