



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION
REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. **04V-588** by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Report Date: **December 13, 2004** Date E-Mailed: **December 21, 2004**

MANUFACTURER: **Champion Bus Inc.**

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: **Daniel A. Bensman**

SUBJECT: 6 Champion 2004 CTS Rear Engine buses fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217, "Bus Emergency Exits And Window Retention And Release." Regulation defines the number and size of emergency exits that should be installed on a bus, as determined by the number of designated seating positions on such bus. Four emergency exit windows were installed instead of five.

This is an acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be written only if we have additional comments or concerns.

This recall was the subject of an investigation, OA-217-040929B, conducted by the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

I have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577. A statement needs to be added advising the owner of the risk and consequences involved, i.e., "...with fewer emergency exit windows, occupants may not escape quickly in the event of an emergency, increasing the risk of injury."

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter **in which notification to purchasers occurs**. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin during late December 2004. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by April 30, 2005.

If you have any questions, please call:

Patricia Wallace, Safety Defects Analyst on (202) 366-5232 or
George Person, Chief on (202) 366-5210
or Fax at (202) 366-7882
or e-mail at Patricia.Wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov
Recall Management Division