

04V-049 (1/7)

**Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles**  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report<sup>1</sup>**

**On January 16 2004, Liberty Bus, Inc. decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.**

**Date this report was prepared:** January 22, 2004\_\_\_\_\_

**Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):** 217/01/lib\_\_\_\_\_

**1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.**

Liberty Bus, Inc. 1100 E. Eureka St. Lima, OH 45804

**Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.**

Brian Barrington, President

**Telephone Number:** 419-227-6554 **Fax No.:** 419-227-3895

**Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.**

Brian Barrington  
President

**Signed:**

Brian Barrington

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<sup>1</sup>Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

**I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall**

**2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:**

**Make(s):** Liberty Bus **Model Years Involved:** 2003 **Model(s):** Spirit/Freedom

**SB Production Dates: Beginning:** June 2002 **Ending:** December 2002

**VIN Range: Beginning:** 0368-101 **Ending:** 0366-111

**Vehicle Type:** School Bus **Bodystyle:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

All Spirit Models

**Make(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model Years Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Production Dates: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Type:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Bodystyle:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

**Make(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model Years Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Production Dates: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Type:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Bodystyle:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

**Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.**

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

**3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.**

<b>Model</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</b>
Spirit/Freedom SB	2003	11

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 11

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:** 100%

**Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:**

In order to make sure that the problem is corrected we are including all 11 of the buses produced are corrected even if they have the proper door checks installed. The other item is the recessed door handle for the rear emergency door.

**III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance**

**5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

The present door check that we are using will not hold the door at 90 degrees with the body.

According the 217 standard a positive door opening device needs to have a recessed handle.

- REAR Ex. of door handle is Req. to be RECESSED.
- Article of clothing could become caught on the handle  
may result in sudden operation of the door, possibly  
resulting a child or person falling from the vehicle

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

The door check that is being used by Liberty Bus does not allow this to happen. We are using the GM factory supplied door handle which has caused the non recessed handle to be used.

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

The door opening may not be as wide as what people would like.

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.**

There are no warnings that will precede or occur with this

**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.**

**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the**

supplier:

**IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.*

**6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

**7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.**

The defect was found at the MGA research lab in Wisconsin.

**V. Identify the Remedy**

**8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

Liberty Bus is still searching for a remedy. Presently there are no door checks readily available that will allow the door to be held open at that angle. We have some new vendors sending samples to see if there are any others out there that we can use. To remedy the handle problem a metal bezel will be made and installed around the handle to recess it.

**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.**

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Right now we really do not know what the remedy is. The bezel will be powder coated black and made to fit around the current GM handle.

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Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The product has been discontinued

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**VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Notification will happen February 2, 2004. The bezel will go out roughly February 16.

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**VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

**Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.**