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Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

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. 222) 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): 222/01/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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SAFETY INFORMATION DIVISION

¹Each 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:

Use of Track Seating

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.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
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 is they have the proper washers installed. The other issue is the pillar padding attached to both B pillars on the RH and LH side not having enough padding.

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 washer that is used between the seat leg mounting foot and mounting bolt was not wide enough or of the proper grade. When the seat was pulled with the bolt pulled through seat leg the problem was found. In the new test with the proper washer the problem was corrected. The padding offered by Liberty Bus does not meet the 222 requirements.

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

Improper material used in the manufacturing process. Not enough padding material is installed on the pads.

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

The seat could become detached from the mounting point on the floor. Head bump issue.

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 test results of the fix were left with Brian Smith on January 16, 2004. We are trying to arrange on testing for the pillar pads. We have no other bus in the system to check since the model is being discontinued.

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.

The remedy for the fix is to provide 3 washers for every seat that was mounted in each bus. Instructions will be included with each set of washers. The remedy for the pillar pad has not been finalized.

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

The washer that was initially installed was 1/2" and silver in color. The new washer will be 3/4" and be gold in color. The new pads that will be provided once is is determined what those are will be thicker.

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.

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 only thing that we are waiting on are the new washers from our vendor

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.