

June 3, 2004

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Fax Submittal: (202) 366-7882

Dear Mr. Weinstein;

On June 3, 2004 General Coach America, Inc. decided that a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 210 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: June 3, 2004.

1. Manufacturer's Name:
General Coach America, Inc.
275 Graham Road
P.O. Box 397
Imlay City, MI 48444
Contact Person: Deborah Morse, Phone: (810) 724-1753 ext. 399, Fax (810) 724-6478

2. Vehicle Models Involved in the Noncompliance:
Below are the makes and models of the General Coach vehicles involved. Production dates start on July 1, 2001 and end on April 30, 2004.

<u>MAKE</u>	<u>MODEL</u>	<u>MODEL YEAR</u>	<u># Involved</u>
General Coach	M1030	2003	5
General Coach	M1030L	2002, 2003	8
General Coach	M1035	2002, 2003, 2004	56
General Coach	M1035L	2002, 2003	21

3. Total Number of Vehicles to be Inspected:
90 vehicles
4. Approximate Percentage of Vehicles to Contain This Noncompliance:
100% of the vehicles listed.

5. Description of Condition:

During manufacturing of certain vehicles, the driver's seat tether strap was not installed. The function of the driver's seat tether strap is to secure the driver's seat in the event of a crash. This tether strap must be installed to meet the FMVSS-210 standards.

6. Chronology of Events:

April 30, 2004

- During a field inspection of a vehicle on another issue, it was discovered that the driver's seat tether straps were missing.

May 2004

- Further investigation of this model of bus revealed that the driver's seat tether straps were not installed on any of the M1030 or M1035 vehicles. These vehicles are assembled on a separate production line and this problem is isolated to these models.
- All vehicles produced after May 1, 2004 have been corrected on the assembly line.
- Dealer was notified of the noncompliance and a service information document (SID_2004_013) was created (See Attachment 1).

June 2, 2004

- Customer list was developed (See Attachment 2).

7. Description of Corrective Action:

Attach the tether strap to the driver's seat belt according to instructions included in the Service Information Document #SID_2004_013 (Attachment 1).

8. Copy of Notices:

A copy of the proposed notification letter to be sent from General Coach America, Inc. to individual vehicle owners is attached to this document (Attachment 3).

9. Proposed Owner Notification Letter:

A complete list of customers including name, address, telephone number, point of contact will also be provided (Attachment 2).

10. Noncompliance Schedule:

Letters will be mailed to each customer on the attached list (Attachment 2) by June 11, 2004.

If you should have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 810-724-6474 ext. 399.

Sincerely,

Dick Cutcher
Service Manager

CC: Don Roberts, President, CBI
David Carter, Engineering Manager, CBI
Warren Marsh, VP Operations, CBI
Deborah Morse, Warranty Admin Assistant, CBI
Andy Imanse, Thor Corporation