



CHAMPION
BUS INC.
— A THOR company —

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04V-521
(3 pages)

SENDER'S E-MAIL
dmcree@championbus.com

October 27, 2004

**VIA FACSIMILE AND
CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL,
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. George H. Person
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Recall Management Division
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Champion Bus, Inc.
EQ04-022

Dear Mr. Person:

This letter is in response to the notification received on October 18, 2004 from your office concerning the defect notice (Recall No. 04E-058) that was filed by Sure-Lok, Inc. ("Sure-Lok") in which your office requested whether Champion Bus, Inc. ("Champion") has purchased any of the affected equipment from Sure-Lok and if any subsequent purchaser of Champion's products may have been supplied the affected equipment for inclusion in a new motor vehicle.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by Champion contain the equipment that has been determined by Sure-Lok to have a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety.

A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification.

Champion has determined the affected equipment was installed in certain new vehicles manufactured between September 1, 2000 and July 31, 2004 with the following listed make, model and model years:

Make	Model	Model Year	No. Of Vehicles To Be Inspected
Champion Bus	Challenger, Crusader, CTS, Defender	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004	231
General Coach	M1035	2002	1

- B. Description of Defect. All of the buses that will be subject to this recall campaign may contain Sure-Lok wheelchair securement retractor assemblies with the sprocket teeth out of alignment, which could result in the failure to restrain the wheelchair in the event of a crash.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion received notification from Sure-Lok that a potential defect with the retractor assemblies may exist.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notifications issued by Sure-Lok in connection with recall campaign 04E-058, the retractor assemblies determined to be defective must be removed from service immediately and returned to Sure-Lok for replacement. Sure-Lok has agreed to replace the defective retractor assemblies without charge to the owners.

In order for Sure-Lok to remedy the defect referred to above, all of the owners of the buses sold by Champion that are subject to this recall campaign must be notified. Champion has provided Sure-Lok with the vehicle numbers, and the names and addresses of the current owners of such buses. Sure-Lok will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 04E-058.

- E. Owner Notifications. Sure-Lok has sent the notification letters to the owners of the buses that are subject to this recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 04E-058.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Sure-Lok will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 04E-058. Because the information included by Sure-Lok in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Champion buses subject to this recall campaign, Champion will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. Campaign Number. Champion does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Champion will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

If you should require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (810) 724-6474 ext. 399, or by fax at (810) 724-6478.

Very truly yours,

Deborah Morse

cc: Mr. Dick Cutchner
Mr. Don Roberts
Mr. Andrew Imanse (via fax)
Mr. Walter L. Bennett (via fax)

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Mr. John M. Garnhausen (via email)