

Associate Administrator for Enforcement,  
National Highway Traffic Safety  
Room 5326  
400 Seventh Street S. W.  
Washington, DC 20590  
Fax to: Patrica Wallace (202) 366-7882  
Number of pages including this one: 7

04V-545  
(7 pages)

November 15, 2004

Subject:       **PART 573—DEFECT AND NONCOMPLIANCE REPORTS**  
                  **Emergency Window Push-out force, installed in Orion buses**

In accordance with 49 CFR Part 573.5 Orion Bus Industries is submitting information regarding a potential defect that is currently under our investigation. The defect relates to the emergency window installed in, Orion transit busses.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*J. Labonte*

Joe Labonte  
Compliance and Safety Officer  
Member of American Society of Safety Engineers  
(905) 403-7807

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

04V-545

On November 15, 2004, Orion Bus Industries Ltd. [MFR] 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: November 15, 2004

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

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.

Orion Bus Industries Ltd.  
350 Hazelhurst Road  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5T 4T8

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

Joe Labonte  
Compliance and Safety Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (905) 403-7832 ext. 3335 Fax No.: (905)403-8800

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Joe Labonte  
Compliance and Safety Officer \_\_\_\_\_

*J. Labonte*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

<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): Orion Model Years Involved: 1995 - 2004 Model(s): II, V, VI

Production Dates: Beginning: Jan. 1995 Ending: June 2004

VIN Range: Beginning: TBD Ending: TBD

Vehicle Type: Bus Bodystyle: All

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

Atwood Excel Trademark windows have a 6" red handle located at the midpoint of the vertical edge of the window frame and having a lower portion slider style.

**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.**

20%

**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>
II	1995 - 2001	352
V	1995 - 2004	3237
VI	1995 - 2004	516

---

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 4106

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:** 20%

**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:**

The previous 8 years of all models having windows with a lower slider style emergency window. The quantity provided is for all produced busses in those years. Notices will be sent to those customer having the affected style of window. Specific model and model year quantities will be update once the exact population is determined.

---

---

---

---

**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.**

During subsequent closing of an emergency exit the moving window frame interferes with the jam frame stop located in mid span along the lower edge of the window frame. The push out force to open the emergency exit then exceeds the 60 lb force requirement of FMVSS 217 - S5.3.2b.

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

In some window installations the closing window frame is not prevented from bypassing the jam frame. Analysis of root cause is continuing.

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

During the use of an emergency exit window, a window may not open after applying the required forces. The window requires either additional force to open or will not open at all.

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

There is visual indication that the moving window frame has interfered with the jam frame stop.

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

ATWOOD MOBILE PRODUCTS, LAGRANGE OPERATIONS,

LA GRANGE, IN , 46761

Phone: 260 463 2116

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

Kip Ellis, Account Manager

**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.**

February 20, 2003, NHTSA conducted testing of Bus emergency Exits and Window Retention and Release on three Orion V buses, report numbers PE-217-NVS-03-01, 02 & 03, one or two windows would not extend after exercising the window function prior to testing.

August 8, 2003 investigation by the window manufacturer conducts testing of bus fleet as found in NHTSA's report.

March 9, 2004, additional testing and verification of findings continued at CENTRO Syracuse.

May 2004, testing at CENTRO Syracuse continued to understand the nature of a window becoming over-shut.

October 2004, Further analysis of the window design continues

**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.**

Once verified that the window is subject to an over-shut condition, the jammed window frame is released by prying from the outside to release the interference and remedied by installing two aluminum blocks each attached by two screws.

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

The moving window frame does not interfere with the jam frame stop.

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.

---

TBD

---

---

---

---

---

**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.

---

TBD

---

---

---

---

---

**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.