



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

FEB - 5 2004

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF  
DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. 04V-049 by the  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**Part 573 Report Date:** January 22, 2004

**MANUFACTURER:** Liberty Bus Incorporated

**MANUFACTURER CONTACT:** Mr. Brian Barrington  
President

**FAX:** 419-227-3895

**SUBJECT:** 11 MY 2003 Liberty Spirit (Freedom) school buses manufactured from June 2002 and December 2002. The rear exit door handle is not recessed which can catch on an article of clothing or a back pack, inadvertently opening the door. Also, the required positive door opening device for rear exit door does not hold the door at 90 degrees with the body. In the event of a vehicle crash, and the vehicle ends up on its side, the door will not operate properly possibly hindering rapid egress from the vehicle. These buses fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217, "Bus Emergency Exits and Window Retention Release."

This is an acknowledgment for this recall. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

**NOTIFICATION TO PURCHASERS**

In accordance with Part 577, a draft of the owner notification letter must be submitted to this office for our review prior to mailing to the customer.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call:

Kelly Schuler, Safety Defect Analyst or George Person, Chief  
at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX (202) 366-7882

Recall Management Division

[kschuler@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:kschuler@nhtsa.dot.gov)

Faxed on 2/5/04