



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

OCT 31 2005

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Dick Cutcher  
Service Manager  
Champion Bus, Inc.  
P.O. Box 397  
Imlay City, MI 48444

NVS-215kjs

Dear Mr. Cutcher:

Champion Bus, Inc. (Champion Bus) is requested, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30165, 30166, and 30119, to renotify owners involved in safety recall 04V-519 who have not had their buses corrected or otherwise accounted for. This recall involves 1,562 MY 2000-2002 Challenger, CTS, Defender, General and 2003-2004 Challenger and Corporal transit buses. A light gauge steel was used for the floor frame crossmember located in the floor sub-frame. Under some road conditions this could cause the sub-floor crossmember frame to crack. Owner notification began on November 16, 2004. Through the third quarter of 2005, Champion Bus' fourth reporting quarter, Champion Bus reports that of the 1,562 buses involved, 561 have been remedied, resulting in a completion rate of 36.5 percent.

Champion Bus should conduct the owner renotification in accordance with the guidelines listed below.

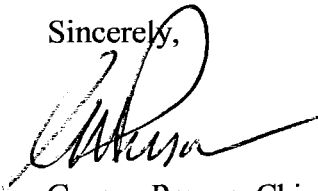
- Before conducting the owner renotification, Champion Bus should obtain an updated owner list, for this recall campaign, based on current state motor vehicle registration records.
- Champion Bus's proposed owner renotification letter for this recall must meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.10, "Follow-up Notification," and must be submitted to NHTSA for review before owner renotification begins. Part 577.10(e)(1) specifically requires that the renotification letter be identified as a ". . . follow-up to an earlier communication."
- In addition to the six quarterly status reports required under 49 CFR Part 573.6, "Quarterly Reports," Champion Bus is requested to file three additional quarterly status reports.

- Furnish a proposed schedule for conducting the owner renotification that includes the following information:
  - a. the date on which the search of current state motor vehicle registration records will be initiated in order to update the original owner list;
  - b. the approximate date on which the revised owner list will be available to initiate owner renotification;
  - c. the approximate date on which the owner renotification will begin; and
  - d. the approximate date on which the owner renotification will be completed (if the owner renotification is to be staggered, give the beginning and ending owner renotification date for each segment).

Champion Bus's renotification schedule and a draft of the proposed owner renotification letter must be submitted to this office by November 11, 2005.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Kelly Schuler of my staff at (202) 366-5227, by fax at (202) 366-7882, or by e-mail at [kschuler@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:kschuler@nhtsa.dot.gov).

Sincerely,



George Person, Chief  
Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement

cc: Mr. Daniel Bensman  
Faulkner, Garmhausen, Keister & Shenk  
Courtview Center – Suite 300  
100 South Main Avenue  
Sidney, OH 45365