

August 2, 2005

George H. Person, Chief
Recall Management Division
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Fax: (202) 366-7882 (3 Pages)
.cc Kelly.Schuler@nhtsa.dot.gov

Subject: **Reference NVS-21kjs - Defect Notice 04V-544 - Orion VII Hydraulic System**

Dear Mr. Person:

This letter is in response to a letter from your office regarding a quarterly recall status report for the first quarter of 2005, Defect Notice 04V-544 – Orion VII Hydraulic System.

Orion provided your office with a quarterly recall status report for the second quarter of 2005 regarding this defect July 21, 2005. This report stated that an Immediate Notice was distributed. Furthermore, the status is as follows:

- Immediate Safety Defect Notices distributed: May 17th, 2005 (copy of Notice attached)
- Remedy notices to be distributed soon.
- Remedy has commenced by Orion service for certain customers to evaluate an effective implementation solution.
- Further implementation and remedy of this recall will be provided with subsequent quarterly status reports.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Yours truly,



Joe Labonte
Compliance and Safety Officer
Member of American Society of Safety Engineers
Daimler Chrysler Commercial Bus North America
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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Attached: 04-416_04V-544_hydraulic system.pdf



Immediate Notice

This Notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Orion Bus Industries has decided that a defect which relates to the motor vehicle safety exists in some of its transit buses.

Orion Bus Industries is preparing a Recall Notice covering elements of the hydraulic fittings between the radiator assembly and storage tank. The recall will impact some Orion VII's. The Recall Notice is being finalized and will be issued shortly. This Notice is being issued to advise operators to ensure that the maintenance and inspection procedures outlined in the Orion Maintenance Manual are followed.

Recall Number:

Transport Canada Recall Number: **04-416**

National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Number (NHTSA): **04V-544**

Subject:

Hydraulic System

Vehicles Affected:

Make(s): Orion

Model Years Involved: 2002 - 2005

Model(s): VII

Production Dates: Beginning: June 2003 **Ending:** April 2005

Vehicle Type: Bus

Body Style: CNG, Diesel (does not include hybrid-electric buses with diesel engine).

CERTAIN ORION VEHICLES - SERIAL NUMBERS OF THE AFFECTED VEHICLES ARE ATTACHED.

Potential Defect:

A leak can occur at the crimp fitting connections positioned between the radiator assembly and the hydraulic storage tank potentially exposing fluid to the road or hot surfaces which could potentially cause a fire.

Immediate Notice - Hydraulic System

Interim Measures:

Transit authorities are advised to follow all maintenance and inspection procedures covering the hydraulic system as outlined in the Orion Maintenance Manual. This includes: tank level checks, inspect for leaks in the engine compartment, and inspection for oil drips on the ground underneath the bus at its standing location.

Remedy:

Final Recall Notice to be issued shortly. Hydraulic fluid loss will require repair with current version parts.

Claims for Credit:

Not applicable. Information to be provided with Recall Notice.

In Case of Dispute:

We are sorry to cause you this inconvenience, however, we have taken this action in the interest of your continued satisfaction with our products.

If, after contacting Orion Bus Industries, at the location listed below, you are still unable to have the safety defect remedied, US residents may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Auto Safety Hotline's toll free number: 1-888-327-4236.

Canadian residents may submit a complaint to the Director, Vehicle Safety and Energy Operations, Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation, Transport Canada, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N5 or call (613) 993-9542.

Service Information:

Inquiries for materials and any additional instructions pertaining to these instructions can be made by calling:

1-800-71-ORION (All Service Inquiries)

1-800-786-8099 (Parts Inquiries/Orders)

**ORION BUS INDUSTRIES LTD.
c/o WARRANTY DEPARTMENT
350 Hazelhurst Road
Mississauga, Ontario L5J 4T8
Tel: (905) 403-1111
Fax: (905) 403-8800**

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