



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

MAY 16 2005

MR. WILFRIED GEENS
COMPLIANCE AND REGULATIONS
VAN HOOL N.V.
BERNARD VAN HOOLSTRAAT 58
B-2500 LIER-KONINGSHOOIKT, BELGIUM

NVS-215
05V-210

Subject: EMERGENCY WINDOW LATCHING SYSTEM

Dear GEENS:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records, as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
VAN HOOL/C2045/2000-2001

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-210

Recall Date: May 09, 2005

Components:
LATCHES/LOCKS/LINKAGES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 150

Summary:
CERTAIN TRANSIT BUSES FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 217, "BUS EMERGENCY EXITS AND WINDOW RETENTION AND RELEASE." A MISMATCHING OF THE EMERGENCY WINDOW LATCHING COMPONENTS. THE EMERGENCY WINDOW LATCHING SYSTEM MAY HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURED WITH A CATCH THAT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE LATCHING SYSTEM.

Consequence:
THE MISMATCH COULD MAKE THE WINDOW OPEN PREMATURELY OR INADVERTENTLY IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND REPLACE THE MISMATCHED EMERGENCY WINDOW LATCHING COMPONENTS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON JUNE 9, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT VAN HOOL AT 877-427-7278.

Notes:

VAN HOOL RECALL NO. WG 902.036. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577. The second paragraph needs to read: "Van Hool N.V. has decided that certain Model Year 2000 and 2001 C2045 Van Hool commuter coaches fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217, "Bus Emergency Exits and Window Retention and Release."

At the end of the fourth paragraph, you will need to describe the consequences if the window opens prematurely or inadvertently, i.e., "an occupant could be thrown out of a window sustaining personal injuries."

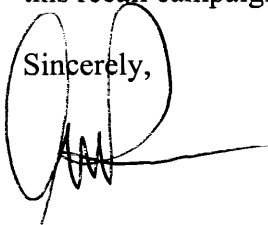
The owner letter needs to have a paragraph added concerning reimbursement for prior repairs, i.e., If you had this repair performed before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall. For more information contact Van Hool/ABC Companies at 1-800-222-2871.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, the recall is expected to begin on June 9, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by July 30, 2005.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division