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April 25, 2005

**VIA FACSIMILE AND
CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL,
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. George H. Person
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
400 7th Street, S.W. NSA-11
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Champion Bus, Inc.
Defect and Non-Compliance Report
EQ04-023

Dear Mr. Person:

This letter is in response to the notification received on December 13, 2004 from your office concerning the defect notice (Recall No. 04E-091) that was filed by Carrier Corporation ("Carrier") in which your office requested whether Champion Bus, Inc. ("Champion") has purchased any of the defective vacuum pump brackets from Carrier. Champion recently received the necessary information from Carrier in order to make this determination.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by Champion contain the vacuum pump brackets that have been determined by Carrier to have a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety.

- A. Manufacturer's Name.
Champion Bus, Inc.
331 Graham Road
P.O. Box 158
Imlay City, Michigan 48444
Contact Person: Deborah Morse
Telephone Number: (810) 724-1753, ext. 399
Fax Number: (810) 724-6478

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(3 pages)

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
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B. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification.

Champion has determined that the defective vacuum pump brackets may have been used on certain 2004 and 2005 model year Challenger and Crusader buses that contain the Ford E-Series 6.0 liter diesel engines. The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 75. These buses were manufactured during the period from July 2003 through December 2004. Upon the information available to Champion, it is believed that 80% of the buses subject to this recall campaign may actually contain the defective vacuum pump bracket.

C. Description of Defect. All of the buses subject to this recall campaign may contain the defective vacuum pump bracket supplied by Carrier that may contain insufficient welds. Vibration of the vacuum pump brackets caused by the engine, compressor clutch torque, or road conditions can expose the welds to unnecessary stress and, in turn, ultimately result in cracks or breakage of the welds. This breakage could result in the vacuum pump bracket becoming disengaged from the engine's drive mechanism and result in the loss of the bus's primary braking system.

D. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion initially received notification from NHTSA on December 13, 2004 that its buses may contain the defective vacuum pump brackets that led Carrier to initiate recall campaign 04E-091. Subsequently, Champion received notification from Carrier that the potential defect with the vacuum pump brackets may exist. Recently, Champion received the necessary information from Carrier to make a determination as to the number of buses manufactured by Champion that may contain the defective vacuum pump brackets.

E. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Carrier in connection with recall campaign 04E-091, Carrier dealers or installers will inspect the vacuum pump brackets to determine if the weldment is eligible for replacement. If the weldment is eligible for replacement, the Carrier dealers or installers will remove and replace the weldment in accordance with the procedures provided by Carrier. Carrier has agreed to inspect and repair, if necessary, the vacuum pump brackets at no charge to owners.

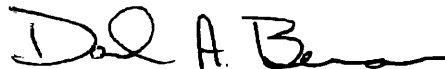
In order for Carrier to remedy the defect referred to above, all of the owners of the buses sold by Champion that are subject to this recall campaign must be notified. Champion has provided Carrier with the vehicle numbers, and the names and addresses of the current owners of such buses. Carrier will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 04E-091.

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- F. Owner Notifications. Carrier will be responsible for sending the notification letters to the owners of the buses that are subject to this recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 04E-091.
- G. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Carrier will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 04E-091. Because the information included by Carrier in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Champion buses subject to this recall campaign, Champion will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- H. Campaign Number. Champion does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Champion will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

If you should require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 937-492-1271.

Very truly yours,



Daniel A. Bensman

dja

cc: Champion Bus, Inc. (via fax)
Mr. John M. Garmhausen