



July 27, 2005

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 7th Street, S.W. Suite 5319  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RECEIVED  
7-215  
2005 AUG -1 P 1:02

CENTRE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

05V-345

2498

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations - Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Collins Bus Corporation is submitting information relating to a safety recall we are conducting. Specific information is as follows:

**573.6(c)(1) Vehicles affected are manufactured by:**

Collins Bus Corporation, a division of Collins Industries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2946  
Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-2946

**573.6(c)(2) The following vehicle models are being recalled:**

Collins Bus Corporation 2002 through 2005 model year Bantam, Super Bantam and Grand Bantam school buses.

**573.6(c)(3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is:**

2032. The majority of the buses are in the possession of end users. Some buses are in the possession of Collins Bus distributors awaiting delivery to end-users.

**573.6(c)(4) The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles to contain the defect is:**

Due to the nature of the defect, and exact conditions required to cause the defect, the percentage of total vehicles to actually contain the defect is unknown. Collins Bus Corporation has not received any reports of this defect on any of its buses.

**573.6(c)(5) Description of the defect:**

The vehicles in question are constructed using Specialty Manufacturing 5-series stop arms manufactured between January 7, 2002 and March 1, 2005, (stop arm serial numbers 480380-627609). Specialty Manufacturing Co. 10200 Pineville Road Pineville, NC 28134 (704)-889-7518. Specialty Manufacturing Co. has received reports that in extremely cold weather and under certain conditions, the micro switches used internally to position the sign in the open and closed positions may malfunction, causing the sign to open or close to an improper position, or to not open at all. Also, it has been determined that the heater section may not be connected in the proper manner. To date, no accidents or injuries have occurred as a result of this phenomenon. In nearly 100% of the occurrences this phenomenon is intermittent, and ceases to exist once the vehicle is no longer exposed to the extremely cold weather. Collins Bus Corporation has had no reports of this defect on any of its vehicles.

**573.6(c)(6) The following is a summary of all the events that were the basis for determining the defect.**

On June 9, 2005 Collins Bus Corporation received a copy of a 573 report submitted to NHTSA by Specialty Manufacturing Co. This report outlined and defined the safety defect as noted above.

Collins Bus Corporation has had no reports of warranty claims or service issues regarding the functionality of the stop arms in cold environments.

Collins Bus Corporation determined that a proactive safety recall was necessary to insure the proper operation of stop arms in cold weather environments.

**573.6(c)(7) Test results or data:**

The determination of this potential safety concern was not based on test data.

**573.6(c)(8)(i) The defect will be corrected as follows:**

The defect will be corrected by replacing the original switch pack provided with the stop arm with a switch pack / heater assembly that is not as sensitive to extreme cold. In addition, the switch pack / heater assembly will be inspected to insure that the wiring is connected properly. This will be a regional recall. Only stop arms used in the selected states will be remedied under this recall. States that will be excluded from this recall are Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, California, and Hawaii.

Customers will be instructed to contact Specialty Manufacturing to obtain parts instructions and reimbursement for the defect. Collins Bus Corporation will monitor the recall and file the quarterly status reports.

**573.6(c)(8)(ii) Correspondence to notify Collins Bus Corporation distributors and Customers of the safety recall:**

Mailing of Customer and Distributor notification letters is scheduled to be completed by August 19, 2005. Parts are anticipated to be available at the time of the mailing.

**573.6(c)(10)**

Attached is a copy of the proposed Owner Notification letter and Owner Response Postcard that Collins Bus Corporation will send to the vehicle owners. Also attached is a copy of Specialty Manufacturing's technical bulletin describing the repair that the customer receives when they contact Specialty Manufacturing.

**573.6(c)(11)**

Collins Bus Corporation will use the campaign identification number assigned by NHTSA .

Should you need further information, my contact information is as follows:

Phone: 620-662-9000 or 800-533-1850 X430  
Fax: 620-662-8484  
E-mail: [steve.gladow@collinsbus.com](mailto:steve.gladow@collinsbus.com)  
Mailing Address: Collins Bus Corporation  
P.O. Box 2946  
Hutchinson, KS 67504-2946

Sincerely,  
**COLLINS BUS CORPORATION**

Steve Gladow  
Engineering Manager