



Aug 5, 2005

05V-343
05V-345

Re SAFETYRECALL NOTICE

Collins Bus Corporation Recall # _____

Dear Collins Bus Corporation Customer,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Collins Bus Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety may exist in your Collins "Bantam", "Super Bantam" or "Grand Bantam" model school bus manufactured between January 7, 2002 and May 27, 2005.

Reason for This Recall:

Collins Bus Corporation has been alerted to a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety in certain school buses equipped with "5" series stop arms manufactured by Specialty Manufacturing Company of Pineville, North Carolina. Specialty Manufacturing has determined that a defect exists in some 5-series stop arms manufactured between January 1, 2003 and March 1, 2005. All stop arms manufactured during these dates will have a serial number between 480380 and 627609

In certain areas of the country during extremely cold weather under certain conditions, the microswitches used internally to position the sign in the open and closed positions may temporarily malfunction, causing the stop arm to open or close to an improper position, or to not open at all. Also, it has been determined that the heater section of the switch pack may not be connected in the proper manner.

States where these temperatures and conditions can occur in the winter include:

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|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Alaska | Minnesota | Vermont |
| Colorado | Missouri | Virginia |
| Connecticut | Montana | Washington |
| Delaware | New Hampshire | West Virginia |
| Iowa | New Mexico | Wisconsin |
| Idaho | Nevada | Wyoming |
| Illinois | New Jersey | Nebraska |
| Indiana | New York | North Dakota |
| Kansas | Ohio | Tennessee |
| Kentucky | Oregon | District of Columbia |
| Maine | Pennsylvania | |
| Maryland | Rhode Island | |
| Massachusetts | South Dakota | |
| Michigan | Utah | |

If your Specialty Manufacturing equipped school buses are not in service in one of these states you may still obtain the free remedy upon request. If your school buses are to be driven in cold weather you should obtain the free remedy prior to the trip.

What Specialty Manufacturing Will Do:

Specialty will provide (free of charge) a service kit which includes instructions, mounting hardware, a service completion card, and a new switch pack that includes switches that are not as sensitive to extremely cold weather. During installation of the service switch pack, the heater wiring should be inspected for proper installation and rewired properly if necessary. Reimbursement for reasonable installation charges will take place after the postage

paid service registration card has been filled out and returned to Specialty Manufacturing. Parts that are removed should be discarded.

Inspection and Repair Procedure:

Please check the serial number's of your bus or buses stop arms. If they fall in the target range you should contact Specialty Manufacturing for a service kit by one of the following methods:

Call toll free: 1-800-951-7867 ext. customer service

Go online to: www.specmfg.com/products_bus_1.html and select the page entitled "5-series stop-arm campaign".

Enter the information provided. A service kit will be shipped to you within 3 – 5 business days.

Each service kit will include a service record completion card which must be filled out completely and returned to Specialty Manufacturing for installation reimbursement.

If your stop arms aren't in the range of serial numbers, please mark the attached post card with your VIN or VIN's and check the box for no action necessary. If you live in the states listed as not requiring service, you can mark the card with VIN's and check no service necessary. Please note that Specialty will reimburse you for your time. After you've completed the service work outlined by Specialty, mark the enclosed post card with VIN's and mark recall complete. In all cases the card is addressed to Collins Bus Corporation.

If this repair has already been done, your can be reimbursed by Specialty Manufacturing.

If you have trouble completing this recall without charge, you may contact Collins Bus Corporation customer service at 800-533-1850.

Owner Response Postcard:

Enclosed you will find an Owner Response Postcard. Please fill in the appropriate information regarding ownership of the vehicle, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), and status of the repairs. Please sign it and return it to Collins Bus Corporation after you complete the card and after any necessary vehicle repairs are complete.

Change of Address or Ownership:

If you are not current owner of the vehicle, please indicate this on the Owner Response Postcard and return the card to us. If you have leased this vehicle to another party, federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Federal Law requires that we advise you of the procedure to follow in informing the National Highway traffic Safety Administration if the defect is not remedied without charge within a reasonable time after the vehicle is tendered for repair. You may contact Collins Bus Corporation Customer Service at 1-800-533-1850 and we will assist you. You may also report your difficulty to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D.C., 20590, or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236: (TTY:1-800-424-9153). Or go to [HTTP://www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please be assured that Collins Bus Corporation is striving to build our buses with the best value and safety available. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

COLLINS BUS CORPORATION

Virgil Schremmer
Customer Service Manager