



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

*April 24, 2006*

DICK CUTCHER  
PARTS & SERVICE MANAGER  
CHAMPION BUS, INC.  
331 GRAHAM ROAD  
PO BOX 158  
IMLAY CITY MI 484444

NVS-215  
06V-127

Subject: WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

Dear MR. CUTCHER:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years: TO BE PROVIDED**

**NHTSA Campaign Number: 06V-127**

**Mfg's Report Date: March 29, 2006**

**Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE**

**Potential Number of Units Affected: 7**

**Summary:**

ON CERTAIN TRANSIT BUSES EQUIPPED WITH RICON S AND K SERIES PLATFORM STYLE WHEELCHAIR LIFTS, THE VERTICAL SUPPORT ARMS FOR THE LIFTS WERE IMPROPERLY WELDED ALLOWING THE LIFT TO STOW IMPROPERLY.

**Consequence:**

IN THE EVENT THIS CONDITION OCCURS DURING PASSENGER OPERATIONS IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CLOSE THE LIFT DOOR CAUSING THE VEHICLE INTERLOCKS TO REMAIN ENGAGED PREVENTING MOVEMENT OF THE VEHICLE OR THE ABILITY TO LOAD OR UNLOAD PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE VEHICLE.

**Remedy:**

CHAMPION IS WORKING WITH RICON TO REMEDY THESE BUSES. THE TWO LIFT ARMS WILL BE REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON AT 1-818-267-3000 OR CHAMPION AT 1-810-724-6474.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

This recall was the subject of a Preliminary Evaluation, PE06-003, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Please provide us with the model years as well as the beginning and ending dates for the build date range [of transit buses] affected by this recall.

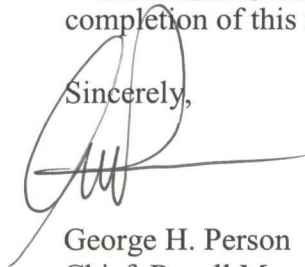
As the vehicle manufacturer, you are required to notify your owners about the recall campaign. Please submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers.

As stated in your report, Ricon will be conducting the remedy and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised if Ricon's campaign is not satisfactorily handled, the agency will require you to renotify owners and provide updated quarterly report.

Also, 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 required 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).

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](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov](mailto: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  
Office of Defects Investigation