



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

MAY - 4 2006

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

MR. TIMOTHY BLUBAUGH
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL AFFAIRS
FREIGHTLINER LLC
4747 NORTH CHANNEL AVENUE
PORTLAND OR 97217-7699

NVS-215kjs
06V-150

Subject: WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

Dear MR. BLUBAUGH:

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:

THOMAS BUILT BUSES/FS-65/2004-2007
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/HDX/2004-2007
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/MINOTOUR/2004-2007
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/MVP-EF/2004-2007

NHTSA Campaign Number: 06V-150

Mfg's Report Date: April 27, 2006

Components:

EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 45

Summary:

CERTAIN THOMAS BUILT MINOTOUR, FS65, MVP-EF, AND HDX MODEL SCHOOL BUSES, MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JUNE 16 AND JULY 1, 2005, EQUIPPED WITH RICON WHEELCHAIR LIFTS. CRACKS IN THE LIFT ARMS MAY ALLOW THE MECHANISM TO TWIST DURING STOWAGE, PREVENTING CLOSURE OF THE SAFETY INTERLOCK SWITCHES.

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:

THOMAS BUILT IS WORKING WITH RICON TO REMEDY THESE BUSES. THE TWO VERTICAL ARMS WILL BE REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE EVEN IF ONLY ONE ARM IS CRACKED. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON MAY 30, 2006. OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON CUSTOMER SUPPORT DEPT. AT 800-322-2884 OR OWNERS MAY CONTACT THOMAS BUS CUSTOMER SUPPORT OFFICE AT 336-889-4871.

Notes:

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-473. 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).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

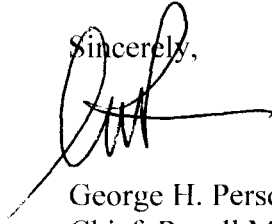
We have received Thomas Built Buses' proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Also, International is required to notify purchasers, dealers, and distributors in accordance with 49 CFR Part 577 and must submit a representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications 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 May 30, 2006. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due in this office on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227 or by email at KSCHULER@NHTSA.DOT.GOV. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement