



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

MAY - 4 2006

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

NVS-215kjs
06V-151

Subject: FMVSS 403/WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

Dear MR. BLUBAUGH:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent noncompliance 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/MINOTOUR/2005-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 06V-151

Mfg's Report Date: April 27, 2006

Components:

EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 87

Summary:

CERTAIN MY 2004-2007 THOMAS BUILT MINOTOUR SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2005, AND FEBRUARY 16, 2006. THE FLOOR STRUCTURE FOR THE WHEELCHAIR LIFT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE STRENGTH REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 403, PLATFORM LIFT SYSTEMS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

Consequence:

THE WHEELCHAIR LIFT MAY BECOME UNSTABLE DURING OPERATION AND CAUSE INJURY TO PASSENGERS OR BYSTANDERS.

Remedy:

THOMAS BUILT WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPAIR THE LIFTS BY ADDING REINFORCEMENT FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON JUNE 30, 2006. CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THOMAS BUS CUSTOMER SUPPORT OFFICE AT 336-889-4871.

Notes:

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-474. 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).

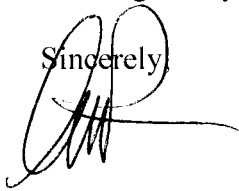
Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, Thomas Built 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 June 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,



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