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May 16, 2006

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Patricia Wallace (patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
Mail Code: NSA 11
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Champion Bus, Inc.
NHTSA Recall No. 06V-127

Dear Ms. Wallace:

This letter is in response to the acknowledgment dated April 24, 2006 sent by your office to Mr. Dick Cutcher at Champion Bus, Inc. regarding the above-referenced recall campaign. I am providing the following information so that your records with respect to this recall campaign are complete. The seven buses that are subject to this recall campaign are all 2005 model year Defender, Challenger, and Corporal buses. All of these buses were manufactured during the period from June 2005 through August 2005.

Attached please find a copy of the Safety Campaign Notice that will be sent to the owners of the seven buses subject to this recall campaign. The Safety Campaign Notice from Champion Bus will be sent along with a copy of the notification from Ricon Corporation, which includes the steps that need to be taken by the owner to inspect the wheelchair lift and to contact Ricon Corporation in order to have the defective lift repaired. I have also enclosed a copy of the Ricon Corporation notification for your convenience.

Unless Champion Bus receives notice from your office that the proposed Safety Campaign Notice is not sufficient, Champion Bus plans to mail the Safety Campaign Notice to the seven owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign by the end of the month.

Ms. Patricia Wallace (patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov)

May 17, 2006

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If you have any questions regarding the foregoing matters, Pat, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

s/Daniel A. Bensman

Daniel A. Bensman

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Enclosures

cc: Champion Bus, Inc. (via e-mail)
John M. Garmhausen

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[Champion Bus letterhead]

May __, 2006

«CUSTOMER»
«STREET»
«CITY», «ST» «ZIP»

VIN#: «CHASSIS_VIN_»

SAFETY CAMPAIGN NOTICE

NHTSA Reference Number 06V-127

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

Champion Bus, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on the Ricon Corporation wheelchair lifts used on certain 2005 model year Defender, Challenger, and Corporal buses manufactured by Champion Bus. According to the information provided by Ricon and our records, your bus with the vehicle identification number (VIN) set forth above contains the potentially defective wheelchair lift.

The nature of the defect and the procedures for inspecting the wheelchair lift and contacting Ricon Corporation to repair the wheelchair lift in the event that a defect is identified are set forth in the enclosed notification from Ricon.

If you experience difficulties with this recall campaign or are otherwise unable to comply with this notice, you may contact the Service Department at Champion Bus, Inc. at 1-800-331-5761. If Champion Bus is unable to provide assistance for you, you may contact the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20590, or toll free through the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or at the NHTSA website <http://www.safercar.gov>.

You may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall campaign. For more information, contact Champion Bus at 1-800-331-5761.

Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

We apologize for any inconvenience this recall campaign may cause you. As always our first priority is the safety of the people using our products.

Sincerely,

Dick Cutcher
Service Manager
Champion Bus, Inc.



INNOVATION IN MOBILITY™

March 17, 2006

Mr. David Carter
Champion Bus Inc.
331 Graham Road
P O Box 158
Inlay City, MI 48444

RE: Equipment Defect Notification

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

Dear Mr. Carter,

Ricon Corp. needs your assistance in notifying your customers about a recall of certain wheelchair lift products built between June 12, 2005 and July 1, 2005 inclusive. Ricon Corporation has determined that a defect may exist in certain wheelchair lifts manufactured by Ricon on the above dates.

WHAT IS BEING RECALLED:

This recall process applies to the "Vertical Arms" only that were used on Ricon's "1200, 2000 and 5500" series platform lifts. It does not apply to other Ricon products.

WHY IS IT BEING RECALLED:

The potential defect is the result of a welding process that may not have achieved full penetration along the seam of the weld. Through our testing and analysis we have determined that a weld with less than full penetration will exhibit signs of cracking along the exterior portion of the vertical arm. This will be most visible when the lift is in the **stowed** position since this is when the weld joint is in tension. Signs of cracking **may not** be visible when the platform is **at floor level or below or is occupied** because the weld joint is in compression at this time. We are not certain how many cycles it takes for the problem to surface. However, once a weld joint cracks, the lift will become difficult to stow or deploy. During these operations the lift will typically twist to one side and often hit the door frame of the vehicle. When stowed, the lift will typically lean into the vehicle more than normal. Both conditions are easily noticed by a driver or attendant.

Ricon Corporation
7900 Nelson Road, Panorama City, California 91402
Tel 818-267-3000 • Toll-Free 800-322-2884 • Fax 818-267-3001
www.riconcorp.com • e-mail: sales@riconcorp.com



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WHAT YOU AS THE OEM NEED TO DO:

Ricon has enclosed a complete list of the lifts you purchased that were manufactured during the specified time period. We have included all lift models and serial numbers. **This information will help you identify your end-user customers and provide the following instructions to them:**

1. Place the vehicle in a safe position and operate the lift through one complete cycle unoccupied.
2. With the lift in the stowed position, inspect the exterior weld seams on each side of BOTH vertical arms looking for visible signs of cracking.
3. If the lift operates normally and you have seen no signs of cracking along the weld joints, the lift may continue to be safely operated. This visual inspection should be repeated during each scheduled maintenance interval as outlined in the Ricon operator's manual.

If there are visible signs of cracking, or you have difficulty deploying or stowing the lift, the operator should take the following steps:

- a. Return the lift to the stowed position in the vehicle and turn off power to the hand control.
- b. Tag the lift to show it is NOT OPERATIONAL following your own "lockout/red tag" procedures.
- c. Contact Ricon Customer Support Dept at 800-322-2884 to report the lift's condition.
- d. **DO NOT USE THE LIFT** again until an authorized factory-trained technician has completed all repairs.

WHAT RICON CORPORATION WILL DO:

Upon notification from your end-user customer, Ricon will work with them to replace the vertical arm (s) as quickly as possible. If the end-user is already factory trained to perform this service, the repairs can be done at the operator's location. If the end-user is not factory trained to perform this service, we will arrange for the repairs to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. In some cases, we may have these repairs performed by Ricon Corp. personnel.

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The lift repair requires replacement of the cracked vertical arm (s). Ricon has elected to replace both arms on each lift even if both are not cracked. We will provide all the necessary replacement parts at No Charge. If the repairs are done by the end-user, Ricon will pay one-hour labor at \$62.00 in accordance with our "Labor Allowance Schedule".

Ricon will provide a full one-year parts and labor warranty on the new arms.

If the lift is repaired by an authorized Ricon dealer and it is not completed within 3 business days, please notify Ricon Customer Support at the toll free number listed above.

If, after contacting the authorized dealer and Ricon Customer Support, your repair is not completed in a reasonable time and without charge you may notify:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S W
Washington, D. C. 20590
Phone (888) 327-4236
(D.C. residents only – 202-366-0123)

Ricon Corp. will take responsibility for compiling and submitting required "Quarterly Reports" to NHTSA covering end-user repairs upon receipt of the customer (end-user) contact information from each OEM.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions concerning these procedures please contact the undersigned at (818) 267-3075 or by email at lmcutt@riconcorp.com.

Sincerely,

Larry McNutt
Director of Customer Support
Ricon Corp.

Ricon Corporation
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