



May 26, 2006

EQ06-007

06V-193

(2 pgs.)

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, S.W. Suite 5319
Washington, D.C. 20590

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations - Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Collins Bus Corporation is submitting information relating to a safety recall we are conducting. Specific information is as follows:

573.6(c)(1) Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Collins Bus Corporation, a division of Collins Industries, Inc., is the manufacturer of the vehicles affected by this safety recall.

573.6(c)(2) The following vehicle models are being recalled:

This recall affects Certain Collins school buses manufactured between June 10th, 2005 and September 28th, 2005 at the South Hutchinson, Kansas assembly plant. The vehicles are identified as "Bantam", "Super Bantam" or "Grand Bantam" school bus models equipped with Model S20005 wheelchair lifts manufactured by the Ricon Corporation.

573.6(c)(3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is:

Collins Bus Corporation built 23 (twenty three) vehicles with that utilized the lifts which were identified by the Ricon Corporation to potentially contain a defect. The majority of the buses are in the possession of end users. Some buses are in the possession of Collins Bus distributors awaiting delivery to end users.

573.6(c)(4) The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles to contain the defect is:

Due to the nature of the defect the percentage of total vehicles to actually contain the defect is unknown. Collins Bus Corporation has not received any reports of this defect on any of its buses.

573.6(c)(5) Description of the defect:

The potential defect is in the "Vertical Arms" of the indicated model Ricon wheel chair lifts.

The potential defect is the result of a welding process that may not have achieved full penetration along the seam of the weld. Through testing and analysis Ricon has determined that weld with less than full penetration will exhibit signs of cracking along the exterior portion of the vertical arm (s). 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. Ricon is 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.

573.6(c)(6) The following is a summary of all the events that were the basis for determining the defect.

On March 20, 2005 Collins Bus Corporation received a copy of a 573 report submitted to NHTSA by the Ricon Corporation. This report outlined and defined the safety defect as noted above.

Collins Bus Corporation has had no reports of warranty claims or service issues regarding the functionality or safety of these lifts in installed vehicles.

Collins Bus Corporation has determined that a proactive safety recall is necessary to insure the proper operation of these lifts in installed vehicles.

573.6(c)(7) Test results or data:

The determination of this potential safety concern is based on test data and analysis done by the Ricon Corporation. The basis of the campaign is not noncompliance.

573.6(c)(8)(ii) Correspondence to notify Collins Bus Corporation distributors and Customers of the safety recall:

Mailing of Customer and Distributor notification letters is scheduled to be completed by June 16, 2005. Parts are anticipated to be available from Ricon at the time of the mailing.

573.6(c)(10)

Attached is a copy of the proposed Owner Notification letter and Owner Response Postcard that Collins Bus Corporation will send to the vehicle owners.

573.6(c)(11)

Collins Bus Corporation will use the campaign identification number assigned by NHTSA.

Should you need further information, my contact information is as follows:

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Sincerely,
COLLINS BUS CORPORATION



Steve Gladow
Engineering Manager