

June 12, 2006



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06V-193

Re **SAFETY RECALL NOTICE**

Collins Bus Corporation Recall # 06V-193

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Dear Collins Bus Corporation Customer,

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

Collins Bus Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exist in certain Collins "Bantam", "Super Bantam" or "Grand Bantam" model school buses manufactured between June 10th, 2005 and September 28th, 2006

Reason for this recall:

Collins Bus Corporation has been alerted to a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety in certain school buses equipped with S2005 model wheel chair lifts manufactured by Ricon Corporation of 7900 Nelson road, Panorama City, California 91402. Ricon Corporation has determined that a defect exists in some S2005 model wheel chair lifts manufactured between June 12, 2005 and July 1, 2005. Your vehicle has been determined to have a potentially defective lift installed.

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 it has been 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. 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.

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. This may result in injury or death.

What Ricon corporation will do:

Upon notification, Ricon will work with you to replace the vertical arms as quickly as possible. If you are a factory trained to perform this service, the repairs can be done at your location. If you are not factory trained to perform this service, Ricon will arrange for the repairs to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. In some cases these repairs will be performed by Ricon Corporation personnel. The repair requires the replacement of the cracked vertical arm (s). Ricon has elected to replace both arms on each lift even if both are not cracked. Ricon will provide all the necessary replacement parts.

All reasonable expenses associated with these repairs will be paid for by Ricon Corporation.

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

Inspection and repair procedure:

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. Due to the nature of this defect, and the fact that defect may not be evident until an undetermined number of cycles, Collins Bus Corporation recommends repairing your lift even if the above symptoms are not currently present.
4. If you see no signs of cracking and choose not repair the lift at this time 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 if 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 the power to the hand control.
- b. Tag the lift to show that it is NOT OPERATIONAL following your "lockout/red tag" procedures.
- c. DO NOT USE THE LIFT again until an authorized factory-trained technician has completed all repairs.

Owner Response Postcard:

Enclosed you will find an Owner Response Postcard. Please fill in the appropriate information regarding ownership of the vehicle, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), and status of the repairs. Please sign it and return it to Collins Bus Corporation after you complete the card and after any necessary vehicle repairs are complete.

Change of address or ownership:

If you are not current owner of the vehicle, please indicate this on the Owner Response Postcard and return the card to us. If you have leased this vehicle to another party, federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Federal Law requires that we advise you of the procedure to follow in informing the National Highway traffic Safety Administration if the defect is not remedied without charge within a reasonable time after the vehicle is tendered for repair. You may contact Collins Bus Corporation Customer Service at 1-800-533-1850 and we will assist you. You may also report your difficulty to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D.C., 20590, or call the 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 be assured that Collins Bus Corporation is striving to build our buses with the best value and safety available. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

COLLINS BUS CORPORATION



Virgil Schremmer
Customer Service Manager