



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

December 19, 2007

MR. DAVID M MIHALICK
STANDARDS COMPLIANCE MANAGER
THOR INDUSTRIES, INC.
PO BOX 629
JACKSON CENTER, OH 45334-0629

NVS-215dgl
07V-567

Subject: FMVSS 403/BRAUN WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

Dear MR. MIHALICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Champion Bus' notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403, "Platform Lift Systems Accessible for Motor Vehicles" in the products described below, for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

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:

CHAMPION/CHAMPION/2005-2007
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2005-2007
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2005-2007
CHAMPION/CTS/2005-2007
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2005-2007
GENERAL/CORPORAL/2005-2007
GENERAL/M1235/2005-2007

NHTSA Campaign Number: 07V-567

Mfg's Report Date: December 6, 2007

Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 375

Summary:

CERTAIN COACHES EQUIPPED WITH BRAUN PLATFORM LIFTS FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 403, "PLATFORM LIFT SYSTEM ACCESSIBLE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES." A PASSENGER CAN APPROACH THE EXPOSED LIFT DOORWAY WITHOUT THE AUDIBLE ALARM ALERTING THEM OF THEIR PROXIMITY TO THE THRESHOLD.

Consequence:

SHOULD THE THRESHOLD WARNING SYSTEM FAIL TO OPERATE, THE LIFT USER CAN FALL FROM THE VEHICLE AND BE SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Remedy:

CHAMPION IS WORKING WITH BRAUN CORPORATION TO HAVE THE DOORWAY LIFT FIXED FREE OF CHARGE (PLEASE SEE 07E094). OWNERS MAY CONTACT CHAMPION AT 1-800-331-5761 OR BRAUN CORPORATION AT 1-800-946-7513.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO 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:

Federal law requires that the vehicle manufacturer notify owners, dealers and distributors about the defect and offer a free remedy as well as other things. Also, manufacturers are required to submit a draft of their owner notification letter to the Recall Management Division at least 5 days prior to mailing it to owners, and to submit a representative copy of any communication about the recall that is sent to more than one owner, dealer or distributor within 5 days of mailing it. The owner notification must be mailed to current registered owners using State motor vehicle registration records, or, if State registration records fail to yield a usable address, to the most recent owner known to the manufacturer. The vehicle manufacturers must notify their dealers even though they may not be involved in this recall, since owners may contact them for information.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted 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 your report, Braun Corporation will be handling the remedy and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Braun's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at Patricia.wallace@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@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", written over a horizontal line.

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

