

THOR
INDUSTRIES, INC.

419 West Pike Street, PO Box 629, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0629

February 14, 2007

07V-061
(4 pages)

VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED

RECEIVED

2007 FEB 21

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Mr. George H. Person
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
400 7th Street, S.W. NSA-11
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Champion Bus
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Person:

Champion Bus ("Champion") has been notified by Ricon concerning a safety non-compliance with FMVSS 403 involving wheel chair lift products built between January 6, 2006 and September 6, 2006 inclusive. Ricon has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has assigned recall number 06E-101 to the Ricon recall campaign.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by Champion were built with Ricon wheel chair lifts that contain the non-compliance.

As more specifically set forth below, Ricon has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these non-compliant wheel chair lifts. Champion will provide Ricon with a list of dealers and owners to assist Ricon in remedying the non-compliance. Ricon will be filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The non-compliant wheel chair lifts supplied by Ricon have been used on certain 2006 Challenger, Defender, Crusader, Corporal, and CTS Buses, which were manufactured by Champion between January 2006 and September 2006. The breakdown is as follows:

<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u># of Units</u>
2006	Challenger	58
2006	Defender	3
2006	Crusaders	18
2006	Corporals	2
2006	CTS	2

The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 83.

- B. Description of Defect. The potential non-compliance with S6.10.2.7 of the FMVSS403 is the result of the inner barrier interlock switch system in the lift base plate not detecting the presence of a passenger(either wheelchair or standee) in the inner barrier and allowing the platform to move down more than one inch below floor level while occupied. This condition can result at installation if the installer runs wires through the base plate assembly and the wires lodge under the trigger block for the interlock switch interfering with the switch movement. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations it may be possible for the wheelchair to tip backwards onto the platform if the user is backing onto the lift from inside the vehicle and has the small front wheels fully or partially on the inner barrier when the platform was lowered. A standee could lose his or her balance if they were positioned fully or partly on the inner barrier when the platform was lowered. Either condition could cause personal injury. No accidents have been reported as a result of this condition to date.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion received notification from Ricon on January 31, 2007 that the non-compliance with the wheel chair lifts exist.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Ricon in connection with recall campaign 06E-101, Ricon will correct the wheel chair lift if found to be non-compliant. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact Ricon in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed by Ricon. Ricon will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 06E-101. Ricon has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner Notifications. Champion will notify the owner's of the buses. A copy of the owner's notification letter is attached for review and approval.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Ricon will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 06E-101. Because the information included by Ricon in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Champion buses subject to this recall campaign, Champion will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. Campaign Number. Champion does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Champion will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

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The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Champion with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Champion in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DM Mihalick", written in a cursive style.

David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries, Standards Compliance Manager



CHAMPION BUS, INC.

Thor Industries Commercial Bus Division

February 1, 2007

Creative Bus Sales
13501 Benson Avenue
Chino, CA 91710

VIN # 1GBE4VIGXGF418711
CBI # 556CH290RLGU14224

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 Ricon Corporation wheelchair lifts used on certain 2006 model year Defender, Challenger, Crusader, and CTS 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, contacting Ricon Corporation to repair the wheel chair lift in the event that a defect is identified are set forth in the enclosed notification for 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 www.nhtsa.gov. You are eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall campaign.

Federal regulations require that any vehicle leaser receiving this notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten 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.

331 Graham Road ~ P.O. Box 158 ~ Imlay City, Michigan 48444 ~ 810.724.6474
Fax: Sales - 810.724.1844 ~ Purchasing - 810.724.7661 ~ P & S - 810.724.3734 ~ Accounting - 810.724.3734