



CORPORATION

**07V-069
(15 pages)**

WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT SMALL BUSES.

Associate Administrator for
Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

January 25, 2007

Dear Sir/Madam:

On Tuesday, January 21, 2007, U.S. Bus Corporation determined that a noncompliance with FMVSS 210 exists on certain U.S. Bus Corporation vehicles manufactured between 2003 and present; the actual number of released vehicles involved is (38).

Specifically, the noncompliance involves school bus models built with 3-passenger C.E. White Student Safety Seats in conjunction with floor tracking. The noncompliance was uncovered during routine testing performed on a test bus body buck built by U.S. Bus Corporation, specifically for testing seats. This test buck exactly duplicated the current manufacturing and design processes followed on the production line.

When testing the aforementioned track-mounted seats, the seat achieved the load prescribed in the standard criteria, but failed to hold said load for the prescribed ten (10) seconds, before the bus floor buckled, resulting in the track breaking and fracturing the mounting hardware. As U.S. Bus Corporation's Director of Engineering, I determined that the cause of this failure was due to insufficient reinforcement of the bus floor directly below the seat tracking. I immediately designed a retrofit structural channel, which could be installed on existing buses, and could be incorporated into buses yet to be manufactured, as a production change.

On Friday, January 25, 2007, C.E. White's engineers re-tested the 45" seat with the reinforcements installed, and the seat and structure passed the tests. Upon notification of the successful test, I immediately issued orders to our production personnel to immediately incorporate this change on future production, and to existing buses still at our facility.

We will notify our dealers and owners of record of the (38) in-service vehicles of this noncompliance, along with recall information by the end of February, 2007; prior to this mailing, a draft copy of our proposed recall packet will be sent to Mrs. Kelly Schuler of your office for approval and issue of a NHTSA Recall campaign number. I have already designed the remedy parts, and the parts to be used in production.

3927 Elizabeth Street • Richmond, IN 47374 • Phone: (765) 939-3984 • Fax: (765) 939-4375

FACTORY

3 Pat Malone Drive • PO Box 329 • Suffern, NY 10901 • Phone: (845) 357-2510 • Fax: (845) 357-1133 • www.usbuscorp.com

The safety of the children riding in these vehicles is our primary concern; you can rest assured that U.S. Bus Corporation will process this recall information in the most expedient manner possible, and you can be assured of our complete cooperation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact me at the following:

Phone (765) 939-3984

Fax (765) 939-4375

Cell (845) 641-4898

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Sykes", written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Sykes
Director of Engineering
U.S. Bus Corporation

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On JANUARY 22, 199 2007, US BUS Corp. [MFR] decided that ~~(a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)~~ (a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 210) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared JANUARY 25, 2007

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

U.S. BUS CORPORATION

3 PAT MALONE DRIVE

SUFFERN, NY 10901

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

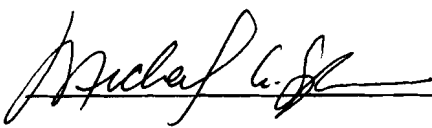
MICHAEL A. SYKES - DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Telephone Number: (765) 939-3584 Fax No.: (765) 939-4375

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

MICHAEL A. SYKES

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

Signed: 

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): U.S. BUS CORP. Model Years Involved ²⁰⁰³⁻2006 Model(s): STUDENT BUS

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

C.E. WHITE STUDENT SAFETY SEATS ATTACHED TO FLOOR TRACK

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
STURDIBUS	2003	(2)
"	2004	(7)
"	2005	(1)
"	2006	(28)

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

38

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

SEARCHED ORDER FILE FOR COMBINATION OF C.E. WHITE 45"
STUDENT SAFETY SEATS & FLOOR TRACK; THEN CHECKED FLOOR PLAN
FOR SEATS MOUNTED TO TRACK

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

DURING TESTING AND/OR CRASH, THE FLOOR BENEATH SUSPECT SEAT MOUNTING CAN BUCKLE, RESULTING IN BROKEN TRACK AND/OR FITTINGS, ALLOWING SEAT TO BECOME DISLODGED.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

INADEQUATE REINFORCEMENT OF FLOOR UNDER TRACK.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

IN EVENT OF CRASH, SEAT CAN BECOME DETACHED FROM FLOOR TRACK AFTER DEFLECTION OF FLOOR

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

NONE

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

N/A

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

N/A

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

ROUTINE TESTING PERFORMED BY C.E. WHITE CO. ON TEST BUS BODY PROVIDED BY
U.S. BUS CORPORATION. TESTING WAS PERFORMED ON JANUARY 22, 2007.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

ATTACHMENT OF STRUCTURAL MEMBERS TO UNDERSIDE OF FLOOR.

REMEDY WAS TESTED JAN. 25, 2007 BY C.E. WHITE SHOWING
A "PASS" CONDITION

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

(2) STRUCTURAL CHANNELS BOLTED TO UNDERSIDE OF FLOOR.

SEE ATTACHED DRAWING

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

PRODUCTION REMEDY IS IDENTICAL TO RECALL REMEDY, AND
WAS PUT INTO PLACE FRIDAY, JAN. 21, 2007

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

NOTIFICATION OF END-USERS WILL TAKE PLACE BY THE END OF
FEBRUARY. UPON CONFIRMATION OF LOCATION OF BUS, ARRANGEMENTS
WILL BE MADE FOR REMEDY.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

F.M.V.S.S. 210 SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY ANCHORAGES, TYPE 1, 2 TEST REPORT

DATE: 1/23/2007

TIME: 12:18 PM

TEST LOCATION: The C. E. White Co. Testing Lab

TEMPERATURE: 70 DEG F

PART NUMBER: 45" SSS

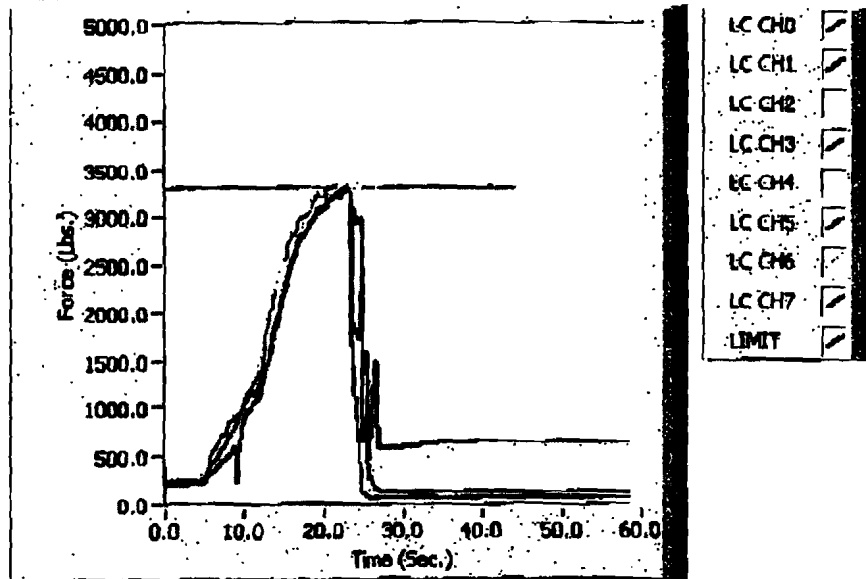
MAX. FORCE (LBS.): 4310.26

Test Engineer: Price/Everett

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: 45" SSS US Bus buck track mount using shelok hardware w/grade 8 washers under nut head. 3 legs no wall mount.

CHANNEL	STATUS	PEAK FORCE (LB.)
0	FAIL	3277.08
1	FAIL	3285.55
2	FAIL	3454.59
3	FAIL	3344.04
4	PASS	4310.27
5	NOT ACTIVE	0.00
6	FAIL	3471.03
7	NOT ACTIVE	0.00

210 ANCHORAGE TEST



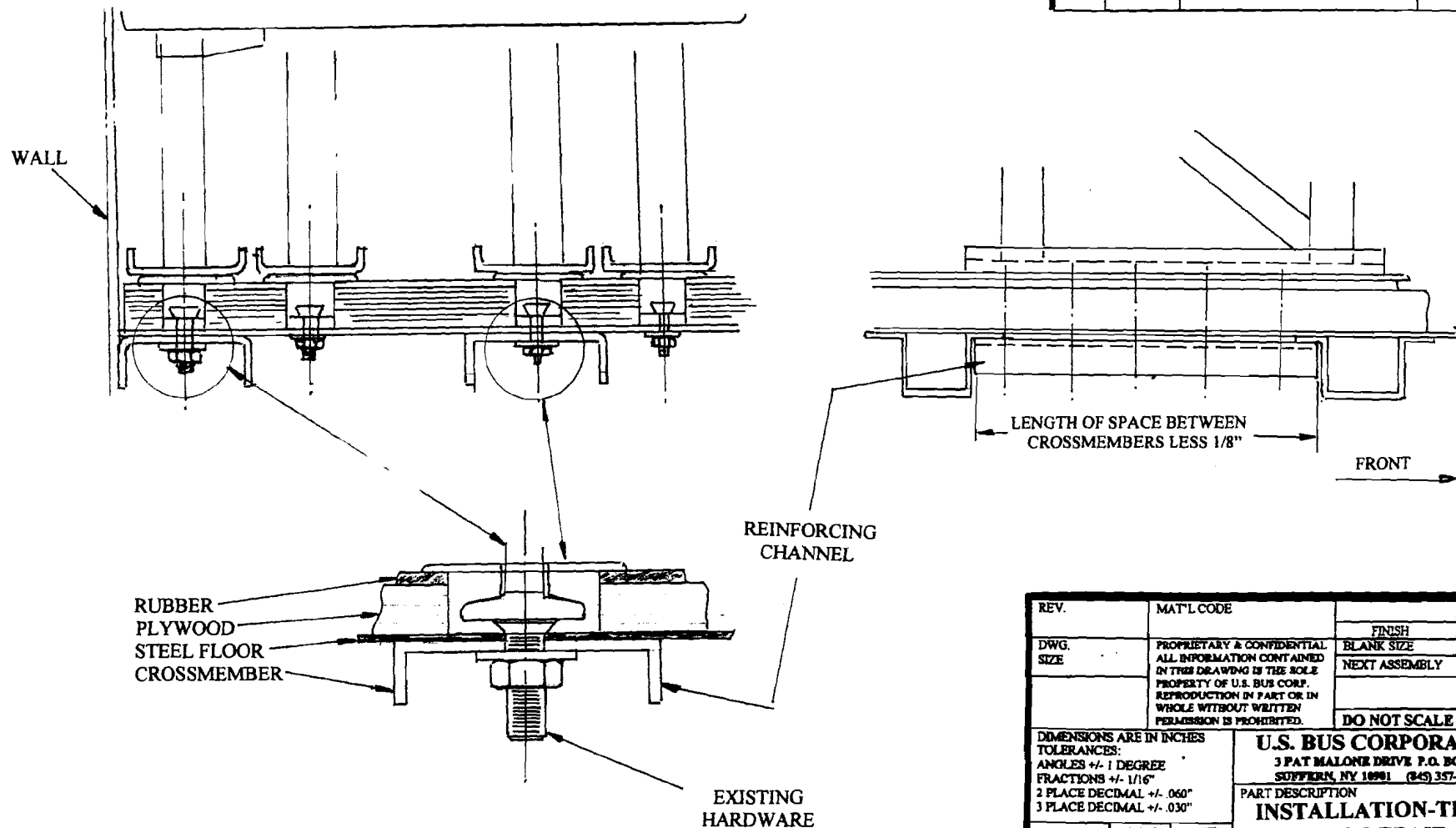
Graph of Test Results

A must Re-test

the c.e. white co.
Seating and Interior Trim Since 1937



REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE	ENGR	APPR.



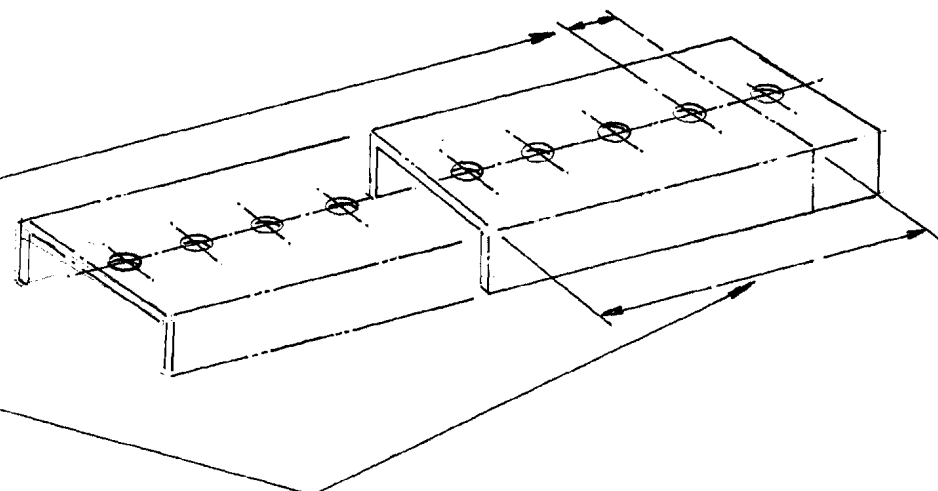
REV.	MAT'L CODE	FINISH	USED ON
DWG. SIZE	PROPRIETARY & CONFIDENTIAL ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF U.S. BUS CORP. REPRODUCTION IN PART OR IN WHOLE WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.	BLANK SIZE	NEXT ASSEMBLY
DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES TOLERANCES: ANGLES +/- 1 DEGREE FRACTIONS +/- 1/16" 2 PLACE DECIMAL +/- .060" 3 PLACE DECIMAL +/- .030"		DO NOT SCALE DRAWING	
U.S. BUS CORPORATION 3 PAT MALONE DRIVE P.O. BOX 329 SUFFERN, NY 10901 (245) 357-2510		PART DESCRIPTION	
NAME		DATE	
DRAWN		PART WT.	
CHECKED		DRAWING NUMBER	
APPROVED		SH1 OF 2	

USB0373

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE	ENGR.	APPR.

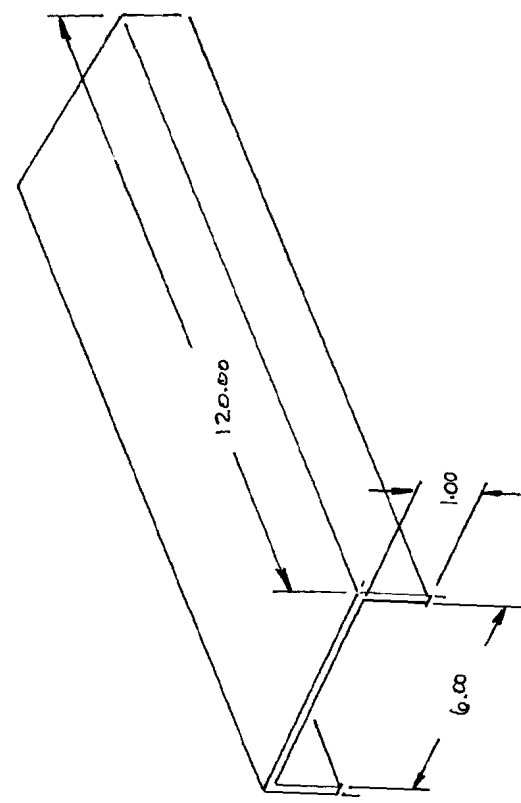
INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. REMOVE ALL 45-INCH TRACK MOUNTED SEATS
2. REMOVE NUTS AND WASHERS HOLDING FIRST AND THIRD TRACKS FROM WALL, FROM UNDERSIDE OF BUS
3. MEASURE FROM FRONT CROSSMEMBER TO FIRST SCREW, MARK REPAIR CHANNEL.
4. MEASURE DISTANCE BETWEEN CROSSMEMBERS, AND MARK CHANNEL FOR LENGTH.
5. CUT CHANNEL WITH POWER HACKSAW OR PLASMA CUTTER.
6. SLIP CHANNEL OVER TRACK SCREWS, DRILLING 7/16" DIA. HOLES AT ANY SCREW NOT LINING UP WITH HOLE IN CHANNEL.
7. REINSTALL TRACK HARDWARE, MAKING SURE TO TIGHTEN ALL NUTS
8. REPLACE EXISTING SEAT ATTACHMENT DEVICES HOLDING SEATS TO TRACKS WITH REPLACEMENT DEVICES.
9. INSTALL ADDITIONAL SEAT LEGS WITH FASTENERS PROVIDED. LEG WITH OFFSET TOP BRACKET GOES ON TRACK NEAREST WALL.



REV.	MAT'L CODE		FINISH	USED ON
DWG. SIZE	PROPRIETARY & CONFIDENTIAL ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF U.S. BUS CORP. REPRODUCTION IN PART OR IN WHOLE WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.		BLANK SIZE	NEXT ASSEMBLY
DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES TOLERANCES: ANGLES +/- 1 DEGREE FRACTIONS +/- 1/16" 2 PLACE DECIMAL +/- .060" 3 PLACE DECIMAL +/- .030"		U.S. BUS CORPORATION 3 PAT MALONE DRIVE P.O. BOX 329 SUFFERN, NY 10991 (845) 357-2510 PART DESCRIPTION INSTALLATION-TRACK SEATING REPAIR		
	NAME	DATE	DO NOT SCALE DRAWING	
DRAWN			PART WT	SHT 2 OF 2
CHECKED			DRAWING NUMBER	
APPROVED			USB0373	

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE	ENGR	APPR



12 GA. (.1084) GALVANIZED
STEEL

REV.	MATL CODE	579918	FINISH	USED ON
DWG. SIZE	PROPRIETARY & CONFIDENTIAL ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF U.S. BUS CORP. REPRODUCTION IN PART OR IN WHOLE WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.		BLANK SIZE	NEXT ASSEMBLY
DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES TOLERANCES: ANGLES $\pm .1$ DEGREE FRACTIONS $\pm .1/16$ 2 PLACE DECIMAL $\pm .000$ 3 PLACE DECIMAL $\pm .000$		DO NOT SCALE DRAWING U.S. BUS CORPORATION 3 PAT MALONE DRIVE P.O. BOX 79 SUFFERN, NY 10991 (249) 357-2510		
NAME		DATE	PART DESCRIPTION	
DRAWN			REINFORCEMENT-	
CHECKED			SEAT TRACKING	
APPROVED			PART WT.	SHT OF
			DRAWING NUMBER	
			USB0376	





