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By Recall Mgt Div. at 11:58 am, Nov 16, 2009

07V-155
(6 pages)
Revised

November 12, 2009

Associated Administrator for Enforcement
Attention: Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

In accordance with CFR 49 Part 573, Transportation Collaborative Inc has decided on behalf of US Bus Corporation (the Original manufacturer) to conduct this recall, which, relates to a non-compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 210 "Seat Belt Assembly Anchorage" and Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 222 "School Bus Seating and Crash Protection". The non-compliance exists with Certain Sturdibus, Universe and Metrovan May 1, 2000 and May 2, 2006 equipped with Freedman Family seats.

This report was e-mailed to NHTSA on November 12, 2009 to RMD.ODI@dot.gov In addition sent, via UPS.

If there are any questions regarding the information I have submitted, please contact me at 845-988-0419.

Respectfully,



Jose Vazquez
Warranty



7 LAKE STATION ROAD

WARWICK, NY 10990

PHONE: (845) 988-2333



**PART 573 Defects and Noncompliance
Noncompliance Report
Revised**

Report Date: November 12, 2009

I.

Transportation Collaborative Inc has decided to conduct recall # **07V-155** on behalf of US Bus Corporation (the Original manufacturer). US Bus Corporation on April 3, 2007 decided that non-compliance exist with Certain Sturdibus , Universe and Metrovan School buses manufactured between May 1, 2000 and May 2, 2006.

The noncompliance involves Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 222 "*School Bus Seating and Crash Protection*" and Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 210 "*Seat Belt Assembly Anchorage*". Specifically, this non-compliance was caused by the failure of seat to remain attached securely to the wall and floor, as required in the standards.

Vehicles not involved in the recall:

Vehicles not included in the recall are not equipped with Freedman Family seats and were manufactured by US BUS Corporation after May 2, 2006.

Vehicles involved in the recall:

2000-2006 US Bus Sturdibus, Universe, Metrovan School Buses equipped with Freedman Family Seats.

II.

Approximate percentage of the total of vehicles estimated to actually contain the noncompliance:

100%

Original vehicle population as of April 8, 2007:

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles involved
Sturdibus	2001	4
Sturdibus	2003	18
Sturdibus	2004	57
Sturdibus	2005	12
Sturdibus	2006	5
Metrovan	2000	2
Universe	2003	1
Universe	2004	2
Universe	2005	5
		Total <u>106</u>





Identify and describe how the original recall population was determined:

According to US Bus Corporation records, on or before April 2, 2007 MGA Research on behalf of NHTSA conducted testing. It was during testing that it was determined that the wall mounting bolts and floor mounting bolts could be pulled through the supporting steel. The test report showed that US Bus Corporation was not in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 222 "*School Bus Seating and Crash Protection*" and Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No 210 "Seat Belt Assembly Anchorage". The test vehicle used was that of the same configuration of a US Bus Corporation Sturidibus, Universe and Metrovan School Buses Equipped with Freedman Family seats. After reviewing, the test data supplied by MGA research US Bus Corporation identified all units manufactured with Freedman Family seating in order to determine the vehicle population.

III.

Describe the Noncompliance:

The noncompliance involves FMVS 222 "*School Bus Seating and Crash Protection*" as required in S5.1.3 (d) which states, "**the seat shall not separate from the vehicle at any attachment point**". In addition the noncompliance involves Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 210 "*Seat Belt Assembly Anchorage*" as requires in S4.2.1 which states that "**the anchorages, attachment hardware and attachment bolts for any seat belt assemblies shall withstand a 5,000 pound force when tested in accordance with S5.1**". According the test report from **MGA Research OBO NHTSA**, the noncompliance was caused by the failure of the seat to remain attached securely to the wall and floor, as required by the standards. US Bus Corporation determined that this failure was caused by insufficient reinforcement of the supporting steel to which the seats are mounted. Upon inspection of the subject bus , it was determined that the lap belts were improperly attached to the seat frame , through the stud used to attach the seat cushions to the seat frame, instead of being attached to the frame through holes in the seat frame member.

Describe the consequence of the Noncompliance:





The consequence of this noncompliance is that, in the event of a vehicle crash, a passenger seat could become dislodged from the wall or floor, or both, resulting in personal injury or fatality.

Identify any warning, which can (A) Precede or (B) Occur:

There are no warnings. Vehicles must be physically inspected for the noncompliance.

IV.

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:

On or before April 2, 2007 - MGA Research on behalf of NHTSA preformed a static test on a US Bus Corporation Sturidbus with Freedman Family Seats. The test revealed that a noncompliance with **FMVS 210** and **FMVS 222** existed. Specifically, the failure of the wall and floor mounting bolts being pulled through the supporting steel.

April 3, 2007 – US Bus Corporation made the decision that the noncompliance existed with their 2000-2006 Sturidibus, Universe, Metro van School Buses equipped with Freedman Family manufactured between May 1, 2000 and May 2, 2006.

April 23, 2007 – NHTSA issued their acknowledgement letter to US Bus Corporation and assigned recall number **07V-155** to the Campaign.

October 19, 2009 – Transportation Collaborative Inc on behalf of US Bus Corporation decided to conduct recall number 07V-155 on certain 2000 thru 2006 US Bus Sturidibus, Universe and Metrovan School Buses built with Freedman Family Seats and manufactured between May 1, 2000 thru May 2, 2006.

V.

Identify the remedy:

The remedy for this recall will require the addition of seat leg reinforcement plates and the installation of a seat mount bracket at the base rail and to replace the seat cover and foam pack in order to gain the proper spacing to comply with the standard. Part of the remedy will include seat spacing requirements, which will consist of a minimum spacing of 8 7/8-inch and a maximum and a maximum of 12-inch. The seat belts will be required to be relocated from from the seat-mounting stud to the seat base frame. The seat covers and cushions will need to be removed in order to access the seat bolts. Once the seat bolts are exposed, they will need to be removed in order to install the 11 gauge reinforcement seat mount bracket using self-drilling stainless steel screws and the seat





bolt plates. Customer and dealers will be asked to remove the existing bolts and drill two new holes matching the seat bolt pattern through the seat mount plates provided and install two additional zinc plated bolts. The original hardware will be utilized to complete the repair.

Transportation Collaborative Inc will notify the owners of the affected vehicles and dealers that sold the vehicles on behalf of US Bus Corporation. Owners and dealers will be required to inspect the vehicles for the noncompliance with FMVS 210 and 222 " TCI will supply customers, dealers and or any authorized repair facility with all the parts and hardware associated with the remedy. Customers will be supplied with instructions on how to inspect and have the barrier cover and foam pack replaced. TCI will assist all customers with scheduling repairs and locating authorized repair facilities.

Any cost incurred to the owners ,purchasers and dealers of Vehicles affected by recall number 07V-155 will be reimbursed by Transportation Collaborative Inc. on behalf of US Bus Corporation within a reasonable time of the notifications. Transportation Collaborative Inc. reimburses customers and dealers within 30days of the remedy.

According to US Bus Corporation records, factory installations were changed to reflect the remedy in order to prevent the noncompliance with FMVS No.210 and FMVS No.222 from reoccurring.

VI.

Recall Schedule:

Upon approval of this report , TCI Will begin to notify customers on Behalf of US Bus Corporation by issuing Notification letters to the dealers and customers along with labels and inspection/ installation instructions no later then **November 23,2009**.

All questions regarding this recall should be addressed to:

Jose Vazquez
Warranty Department
Transportation Collaborative Inc.
7 Lake Station Road
Warwick, New York 10990
Phone# 845-988-0419 Fax# 845-988-0327

Prepared by: Jose Vazquez, Warranty Department TCI





Signature: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over the signature line. The signature is cursive and appears to be 'J. Lee'.

Date: 11/12/2009



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