



CHAMPION BUS, INC.

Thor Industries Commercial Bus Division

March 6, 2007

VIN # 1GBE4V1GXG
CBI # 556CH290RLGU14224

SAFETY CAMPAIGN NOTICE
NHTSA REFERENCE NUMBER 07V-061

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 certain 2006 model year Defender, Challenger, Crusader, and CTS buses fail to conform to federal Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403, "Platform Lift System for Motor Vehicles". 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 ignored this recall could cause personal injury; any person who is positioned partly or fully on the inner barrier when the lift is lowered, is liable to lose balance and fall.

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 <http://www.safercar.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 leasee 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.



INNOVATION IN ACCESS

February 1, 2007

Mr. David Carter
Champion Bus, Inc. (137250)
Commercial Vehicle Division
PO BOX 158
Imlay City, MI 48444-0158

RE: Equipment Safety Standard Non-Compliance Notification

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

Dear Mr. Carter,

Ricon Corp. needs your assistance in notifying your customers about a recall of certain wheelchair lift products built between January 6, 2006 and September 6, 2006 inclusive. Ricon Corporation has determined that a safety related non-compliance with S6.10.2.7 of the FMVSS 403 might exist in certain wheelchair lifts manufactured by Ricon on the above dates.

WHAT IS BEING RECALLED:

This recall process applies to the "Inner Barrier Interlock" only on Ricon's "2000 and 5500" series platform lifts labeled for "DOT Public Use". It does not apply to other Ricon products.

WHY IS IT BEING RECALLED:

The potential non-compliance with S6.10.2.7 of the FMVSS 403 is the result of the inner barrier interlock switch system in the lift baseplate not detecting the presence of a passenger (either wheelchair or standee) on 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 baseplate 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.

Ricon Corporation
7900 Nelson Road, Panorama City, California 91402
Tel 818-267-3000 • Toll-Free 800-322-2884 • Fax 818-267-3001
www.RiconCorp.com • e-mail: **sales@RiconCorp.com**



INNOVATION IN ACCESS

NHTSA – equipment non-compliance notification

Page 2

WHAT YOU AS THE OEM/INSTALLER NEED TO DO:

Ricon has enclosed a complete list of the lifts you purchased that were manufactured during the specified time period. **This information will help you identify your end-user customers and provide the following instructions to them:**

1. Park the vehicle in a safe location and operate the lift through the unfold/deploy cycle.
2. With the lift at the vehicle floor level, place a 25 pound weight completely on any part of the inner barrier, (yellow painted plate) and push the down switch.
3. If the lift platform goes down one inch or less and then stops all movement, the lift may continue to be safely operated.
4. **If the platform continues to move downward, the operator should take the following steps:**
 - a. Remove the 25-pound weight, return the lift to the stowed position in the vehicle and turn off power to the hand control.
 - b. Tag the lift to show it is NOT OPERATIONAL following your own “lockout/red tag” procedures.
 - c. Contact Ricon Customer Support Dept at 800-322-2884 for guidance on how to correct the non-compliance.
 - d. **DO NOT USE THE LIFT** again until a factory-trained technician has corrected the non-compliant condition.

WHAT RICON CORPORATION WILL DO:

Upon notification from **your end-user customer**, Ricon will work with them to locate and correct the source of interference or other problem with the inner barrier interlock switch as quickly as possible. If the end-user is already factory trained to perform this service, the repairs can be done at the operator’s location. If the end-user is not factory trained to perform this service, we will arrange for the repairs to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. In some cases, we may have these repairs performed by Ricon Corp. personnel.



INNOVATION IN ACCESS

NHTSA – equipment non-compliance notification

Page 3

The lift repairs may include removal and/or re-routing any added wire running through the baseplate and/or replacement of the switch block assembly. We will provide all the necessary replacement parts at No Charge. If the repairs are done by the end-user, Ricon will pay one-hour labor at \$62.00.

If the lift is inspected and/or repaired by an authorized Ricon dealer and it is not completed within 3 business days, please notify Ricon Customer Support at the toll free number listed above.

If, after contacting the authorized dealer and Ricon Customer Support, your inspection and/or repair is not completed in a reasonable time and without charge you may notify:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S W
Washington, D. C. 20590
Phone (888) 327-4236
(D.C. residents only – 202-366-0123)

Ricon Corp. will take responsibility for compiling and submitting required “Quarterly Reports” to NHTSA covering end-user inspection or repairs upon receipt of the customer (end-user) contact information from each OEM.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions concerning these procedures please contact the undersigned at (818) 267-3012 or by email at BHinze@RiconCorp.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Hinze".

Bill Hinze
Vice President
Ricon Corp.