



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 21, 2008

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

NVS-215dgl
08V-225

SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR LIFT INTERLOCK SYSTEM/INTERMOTIVE

DEAR MR. MIHALICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Champion Bus's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect 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/CHALLENGER/2007-2008
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2008
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2007-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-225

Mfg's Report Date: May 16, 2008

Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 31

Summary:

CHAMPION BUS IS RECALLING 31 MY 2007-2008 DEFENDER, CHALLENGER AND MY 2008 CRUSADER BUSES BUILT ON GENERAL MOTORS 560 CHASSIS AND EQUIPPED WITH INTERMOTIVE GATEWAY 401 MODULE INTERLOCK HARNESS. THESE BUSES HAVE BEEN FOUND TO EXHIBIT EXTREME VOLTAGE SPIKES DURING ENGINE CRANKING. THESE EXTREME SPIKES CAN DAMAGE THE DIODE IN THE HARNESS NEAR THE SHIFT LOCK SOLENOID CONNECTOR. IF THE DIODE FAILS IN THE SHORTED CONDITION, THE GATEWAY 401 MODULE CAN BE DAMAGED.

Consequence:

IF THIS OCCURS, THE SHIFT LOCK SOLENOID MAY NOT ENGAGE. IF THIS LOCK DOES NOT ENGAGE, THE VEHICLE WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO MOVE WHILE THE WHEELCHAIR LIFT IS DEPLOYED WHICH MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY.

Remedy:

INTERMOTIVE IS HANDLING THE REMEDY FOR THIS CAMPAIGN (PLEASE SEE 08E004). INTERMOTIVE WILL REPLACE THE DEFECTIVE HARNESS FREE OF CHARGE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT INTERMOTIVE AT 1-800-969-6080 OR CHAMPION BUS AT 1-810-724-6474.

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).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

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.

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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, Intermotive Vehicle Controls 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 Intermotive'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 cursive script that reads "Patricia Wallace for".

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