



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 27, 2008

MR. JIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR, FIELD SERVICE
NABI/OPTIMA/BLUE-BIRD TRANSIT
106 NATIONAL DRIVE
ANNISTON, AL 36207

NVS-215paw
08V-437

SUBJECT: CHECK VALVE/PARKER/BENDIX

DEAR MR. JOHNSON:

This letter serves to acknowledge North American Bus Industries' (NABI) 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:
NABI/45CLFW/2003-2004

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-437

Mfg's Report Date: August 20, 2008

Components: SERVICE BRAKES: AIR: SUPPLY: CHECK VALVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 164

Summary:

NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES (NABI) IS RECALLING 164 MY 2003-2004 45CLFW COMPOSITE BODIED TRANSIT BUSES. AFTER PROLONGED USE OF THE PARKER CHECK VALVE, THE VALVE BODY RETAINER MAY BECOME EXCESSIVELY WORN, AND EVENTUALLY BREAK APART.

Consequence:

PIECES OF THE VALVE COULD BECOME LODGED WITHIN THE SPRING BRAKE VALVE, POTENTIALLY CAUSING A LEAK OR PREVENTING AIR FROM PROPERLY EXHAUSTING FROM THE SPRING BRAKE VALVE. THIS COULD CAUSE A DELAY IN BRAKE APPLICATION OF THE SPRING (PARKING) BRAKES AFTER THE OPERATOR PULLS THE DASH CONTROL VALVE, SPRING BRAKES NOT FULLY RELEASING, OR LOSS OF ISOLATION BETWEEN THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CIRCUITS. THIS CAN OCCUR WITHOUT WARNING AND POSSIBLY LEAD TO UNINTENDED VEHICLE ROLL-AWAY, BRAKE DRAG, OR IN THE CASE OF LOSS OF PRIMARY CIRCUIT, THE INABILITY TO MODULATE THE SPRING BRAKES.

Remedy:

NABI IS WORKING WITH BENDIX TO REPLACE THE PARKER CHECK VALVES. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BENDIX AT 1-440-329-9000 OR NABI AT 1-888-391-1777.

Notes:

NABI RECALL NO. 2008-4. 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.

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

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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).

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.

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 Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

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