



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 3, 2008

MR. MARK A. BARCZAK
ENGINEERING MANAGER
STARTRANS BUS CORPORATION
2592 E. KERCHER RD.
GOSHEN, IN 46528

NVS-215dgl
08V-627

SUBJECT: FMVSS 403/ANTI-STOW INTERLOCK/RICON

DEAR MR. BARCZAK

This letter serves to acknowledge Startrans Bus Corporation's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403, "Platform Lift System Accessible for Motor Vehicles," 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:

STARTRANS/CANDIDATE/2004-2008
STARTRANS/SENATOR/2004-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-627

Mfg's Report Date: November 19, 2008

Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 4,409

Summary:

STARTRANS IS RECALLING 4,409 MY 2004-2008 SENATOR AND CANDIDATE SHUTTLE BUSES BUILT ON FORD OR CHEVROLET CHASSIS AND EQUIPPED WITH RICON PLATFORM STYLE WHEELCHAIR LIFTS. THESE LIFTS FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 403, "PLATFORM LIFT SYSTEMS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES." THE ANTI-STOW INTERLOCK MAY NOT DETECT THE PRESENCE OF A WHEELCHAIR OR MOBILITY AID USER. THE PRESSURE SENSING SWITCH THAT DETECTS THE PRESENCE OF WEIGHT ON THE PLATFORM WAS NOT ADJUSTED TO THE NECESSARY SENSITIVITY LEVEL. THE LIFT COULD STOW EVEN THOUGH SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS STILL ON THE LIFT.

Consequence:

A LIFT OCCUPANT CAN BE INJURED SHOULD THE LIFT BEGIN TO STOW UNINTENTIONALLY.

Remedy:

STARTRANS IS WORKING WITH RICON TO CORRECT THE WHEELCHAIR LIFTS FREE OF CHARGE (PLEASE SEE 07E097). OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON AT 1-818-267-3000 OR STARTRANS AT 877-258-1392.

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).

This recall was the subject of an Equipment Query, EQ08-011, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The information in your noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet all the requirements of Part 577.

Please change the salutation from "Startrans Dealer" to "Owners."

Second paragraph should read: "Stratrans Bus Corporation, in conjunction with the Ricon Corporation, has decided that certain 2004-2008 Senator and Candidate buses built on Ford and Chevrolet chassis and equipped with Ricon "S" Series or "K" Series lifts fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403, "Platform Lift Systems for Motor Vehicles."

Also on the second page, please add a return space between paragraphs.

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

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 your report, Ricon 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 Ricon'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 black ink, appearing to read 'GP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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