

February 11, 2008

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2008 FEB 14 A 10:35

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

08V-068
(2 pages)

Re: Champion Bus Inc.
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Champion has been notified by Freightliner concerning a safety defect involving chassis built between June 13, 2002 and June 13, 2007 inclusive. Freightliner has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has assigned recall number 07V-343 to the Freightliner recall campaign.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by Champion were built with Freightliner chassis that contain the defect.

As more specifically set forth below, Freightliner has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective chassis. Champion will provide Freightliner with a list of dealers and owners to assist Freightliner in remedying the defect. Freightliner will be filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The defective chassis supplied by Freightliner have been used on the following buses:

<u>Make</u>	<u>Model Year</u>
3035RE	2008

These buses were manufactured between October of 2007 and February of 2008.

The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 14.

- B. Description of Defect. The defective chassis contain certain ZF model 8018 steering gears that may have been assembled with the incorrect recirculating ball spacer potentially allowing the recirculating balls to escape from the recirculating ball circuit resulting in a loss of steering. On affected chassis the operator may notice higher required steering wheel inputs, or the need for more steering wheel adjustments while driving in a straight line in combination with metallic cracking noises prior to a loss of steering. Loss of steering could result in a vehicle crash.

- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion received notification from Freightliner on February 4, 2008 that the defect with the chassis exists.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Freightliner in connection with recall campaign 07V-343, Freightliner will correct the chassis if found to be defective. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact Freightliner in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed by Freightliner. Freightliner will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 07V-343. Freightliner has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner Notifications. Freightliner will notify the owner's of the buses on behalf of Champion. A copy of the owner's notification letter will be forwarded shortly for approval.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Freightliner will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 07V-343. Because the information included by Freightliner in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Champion buses subject to this recall campaign, Champion will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. Campaign Number. Champion does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Champion will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Champion with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Champion in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries, Standards Compliance Manager