



419 West Pike Street, PO Box 629, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0629

January 31, 2008

**VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

08V-102
(2 Pages)

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

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 January 5, 2007 and May 17, 2007 inclusive. Freightliner has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has assigned recall number 07V-306 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 Years</u>
M1235	2007, 2008
RE CTS	2007, 2008

These buses were manufactured between January 2007 and January 2008.
The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 14.

- B. Description of Defect. The defective chassis contain steering arms or tie rod arms that may have been over or under tightened during their assembly. Incorrectly torqued steering arm fasteners may fatigue and fracture and cause a crash without warning.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion received notification from Freightliner on December 26, 2007 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-306, 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-306. 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-306. 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