

September 23, 2008

**VIA E-MAIL**  
**RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

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-490**  
**(2 pages)**

Re: Champion Bus  
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Champion has been notified by Ricon concerning a safety non-compliance with FMVSS 403 involving wheel chair lift products built between April 1, 2005 and September 6, 2006 inclusive. Ricon has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has assigned recall number 07E-097 to the Ricon 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 Ricon wheel chair lifts that contain the non-compliance.

As more specifically set forth below, Ricon has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these non-compliant wheel chair lifts. Champion will provide Ricon with a list of dealers and owners to assist Ricon in remedying the non-compliance. Ricon will be filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The non-compliant wheel chair lifts supplied by Ricon have been used on the following buses:

<u>Models</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Challenger	2005, 2006, 2007
Corporal	2005, 2006
Crusader	2005, 2006, 2007
Defender	2005, 2006, 2007
CTS-RE	2006
CTS-FE	2007
IC Defender	2007

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These buses were manufactured by Champion between April 2005 and August 2007.

The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 503.

- B. Description of Defect. The anti-stow interlock may not detect the presence of the 50 pound test weight when the weight is located close to the pivot point for the platform in accordance with the test procedures in S7 of FMVSS 403. No accidents have been reported as a result of this condition to date.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion received notification from Ricon on or about July 21, 2008 that the non-compliance with the wheel chair lifts exists.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Ricon in connection with recall campaign 07E-097, Ricon will correct the wheel chair lift if found to be non-compliant. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact Ricon in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed by Ricon. Ricon will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 07E-097. Ricon has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner Notifications. Champion will provide Ricon the owner's information and assist them in contacting the bus owners. A copy of the owner's letter has been submitted with recall 07E-097.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Ricon will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 07E-097. Because the information included by Ricon 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 or Champion at 810-724-6474.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick  
Thor Industries, Standards Compliance Manager