



September 14, 2008

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, S.W. Suite 5319
Washington, D.C. 20590

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations - Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Collins Bus Corporation is submitting information relating to a safety recall we are conducting. Specific information is as follows:

573.6(c)(1)

Collins Bus Corporation, a division of Collins Industries, Inc., is the manufacturer of the vehicles affected by this safety recall.

573.6(c)(2)

This recall affects Collins school buses built on Ford 14,000# GVWR dual rear wheel model E-450 and 11,500# GVWR dual rear wheel model E-350, and GM 10,000# GVWR dual rear wheel, 12,000# GVWR dual rear wheel, and 12,300# GVWR dual rear wheel cutaway van chassis manufactured between April 1, 2005 and January 17, 2007 at the South Hutchinson, Kansas assembly plant. The vehicles are identified as "Grand Bantam" or "Super Bantam" school bus models with street side lift door with a "Ricon" model "S2005" or "K5505" platform style wheelchair lift installed. Ricon Corporation, A Division of Vapor Bus International, 7900 Nelson Road, Panorama City, California 91402, Ph. 818-267-3000, is the platform style wheelchair lift equipment manufacturer, herein called "Ricon".

573.6(c)(3)

Collins Bus Corporation purchased and installed in 868 (eight hundred sixty eight) vehicles with the potential "Ricon" lift defect before the problem was recognized and corrected by "Ricon". The buses are in the possession of end users.

573.6(c)(4)

An estimated 100% of the recall population could include the defect.

573.6(c)(5)

The vehicles in question are constructed with "Ricon" wheelchair lifts installed. The "Ricon" lifts, manufactured between 4/1/2005 and 10/9/2007, fail to comply with FMVSS No. 403 S7.4 "Threshold Warning Signal Test". These lifts' threshold warning system might not activate if a mobility aid moves toward a certain point in the threshold area. Should this system not operate properly, the wheelchair lift occupant may slide or fall from the lift and suffer injury.

573.6(c)(6)

No previous warranty claims or reports of injury exist.
Collins received NHTSA letter from George H. Person, September 9, 2008. Reference number EQ08-011.

573.6(c)(7)

The determination of this potential safety concern was based on NHSTA Compliance Test Report #638657A and NHTSA-2007-28140 Notice 1 received by "Ricon".

573.6(c)(8)

All vehicle owners will be notified the week of October 13, 2008. Notification will consist of a description of the defect, a brief description of the repair procedure and where to take the vehicle to have it inspected and/or repaired. The owner will be instructed to take their vehicle to the nearest Collins distributor or "Ricon" repair facility for inspection and/or repairs.

Collins distributors will be instructed on how to inspect the vehicles for defects and how to repair defects if found. Inspection will consist of inspection of the components. Remedy component have openings at 5.25" spacing while recall components will have openings at 7" spacing. Remedy will be to replace the threshold warning system metal covers and optical sensor mounting retainers. "Ricon" will furnish the repair kit at no charge.

An Owner Response Postcard will be provided to the owner to confirm if the repair is completed or not required. The proposed Owner Notification letter and Owner Response Postcard samples are attached.

573.6(c)(9)

Attached is a copy of the correspondence to notify Collins Bus Corporation distributors of the safety recall.

573.6(c)(10)

Attached is a copy of the proposed Owner Notification letter and Owner Response Postcard which Collins Bus Corporation will send to the vehicle owners.

573.6(c)(11)

Collins Bus Corporation will use the campaign identification number assigned by NHTSA.

Should you need further information, my contact information is as follows:

Phone: 620-662-9000 or 800-533-1850 X479
Fax: 620-662-3838
E-mail: steve.gladow@collinsbuscorp.com
Mailing Address: Collins Bus Corporation
P.O. Box 2946
Hutchinson, KS 67504-2946

Sincerely,

COLLINS BUS CORPORATION

Steve Gladow
Engineering Department Manager



October 22, 2008

Re: **SAFETY RECALL NOTICE**

Collins Bus Corporation Recall # xxxxxx

Dear Collins Bus Corporation Distributor,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Collins Bus Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Collins "Grand Bantam" or "Super Bantam" lift model school buses built on the Ford or GM cutaway van chassis. Vehicles in question include only models with Ricon lift installed.

Reason for This Recall:

Vehicles Involved:

Attached please find a list of buses shipped to you which have not yet been registered to customers. If you are in possession of these buses, please perform repairs as soon as possible. If a customer has taken delivery of a vehicle, please contact the customer and schedule repairs. Some additional customers not included on the list may be contacting you to perform repairs on their vehicles.

Inspection and Repair Procedure:

Perform the following procedures:

1. Park the vehicle in a safe location.
2. Locate and measure the holes in the Threshold Warning System covers on the inboard surfaces of the right and left side baseplate towers. If the holes are at 5.25 inch centers the lift is safe and does not require further action for this recall. If the holes are at seven inch centers continue with repair procedure.
3. Locate and remove 2 bolts at the bottom of the Threshold Warning system covers on the inboard surfaces of the right and left side baseplate towers.
4. Slide the covers up to remove top cover clips from towers.
5. Remove optical sensors from inside the two cover assemblies.
6. Reinstall sensors into new Threshold Warning System covers with new retainer clips provided.
7. Slide new covers over towers and reinstall the 2 bolts at the bottom of the towers.
8. Discard original parts.

Estimated Repair Time:

The lift retrofit will include removal and replacement of the threshold warning system covers using Ricon Corporations retrofit kit # 00002. Ricon will provide all necessary replacement parts at NO CHARGE and will pay labor at a flat rate of \$37.50 for each retrofit.

Owner Response Postcard:

The most recent known owner has been sent an Owner Response Postcard(s). Please assist the customer in filling out the appropriate information regarding ownership of the vehicle(s), the Vehicle Identification Number(s) (VIN), and status of the repairs. The customer is to sign it and return it to us after completing the card and after any necessary vehicle repairs are complete.

Change of Address or Ownership:

If the most recent known owner is not the current owner of the vehicle, please indicate this on the Owner Response Postcard and return the card to us. If the vehicle has been leased to another party, federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Federal Law requires that Collins Bus Corporation advise customers of the procedure to follow in informing the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration if the defect is not remedied without charge within a reasonable time after the vehicle is tendered for repair. Customers or distributors may contact Collins Bus Corporation Customer Service at 1-800-533-1850 for assistance. Customers may also notify Ricon Customer Support at 1-818-267-3000 for assistance. Customers may also report difficulty to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D.C., 20590, or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

Please be assured that Collins Bus Corporation is striving to build our buses with the best value and safety available. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

COLLINS BUS CORPORATION

Chris Hiebert
Warranty Coordinator



September 14, 2008

Re: **SAFETY RECALL NOTICE**

Collins Bus Corporation Recall # xxxxxx

Dear Collins Bus Corporation Customer,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Collins Bus Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in your Collins "Grand Bantam" or "Super Bantam" lift model school bus built on the Ford or GM cutaway van chassis. Vehicles in question include only models with a Ricon platform lift installed.

Reason for This Recall:

The vehicles in question are constructed with a Ricon platform lift installed that may fail to comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard no. 403 S7.4 "Threshold warning signal test". These lifts' threshold warning system might not activate if a mobility aid moves toward a certain point in the threshold area. Should this system not operate properly, the wheelchair lift occupant might fall from the lift and suffer injury.

Inspection and Repair Procedure:

Your Collins distributor or authorized Ricon dealer can inspect your vehicle to determine if repairs are necessary. They will arrange for the retrofit to be done, which will include removal and replacement of the threshold warning system covers and sensors. Ricon will provide all the necessary replacement parts at NO CHARGE and will pay labor for each retrofit.

Estimated Repair Time:

Please contact your local Collins distributor or Ricon dealer to schedule the necessary inspection and repairs. Ricon recall allowance procedures will cover the vehicle service required in this program. If this repair has been performed prior to this Safety Recall Notice, you may be entitled to reimbursement. Your local Collins distributor or Ricon dealer can help you make this determination.

Owner Response Postcard:

Enclosed you will find an Owner Response Postcard. Please fill in the appropriate information regarding ownership of the vehicle, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), and status of the repairs. Please sign it and return it to us after you complete the card and after any necessary vehicle repairs are complete.

Change of Address or Ownership:

If you are not current owner of the vehicle, please indicate this on the Owner Response Postcard and return the card to us. If you have leased this vehicle to another party, federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Federal Law requires that we advise you of the procedure to follow in informing the National Highway traffic Safety Administration if the defect is not remedied without charge within a reasonable time after the vehicle is tendered for repair. You may contact Collins Bus Corporation Customer Service at 1-800-533-1850 and we will assist you. You may also contact Ricon Customer Support at 1-818-267-3000 for assistance. You may also report your difficulty to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D.C., 20590, or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

Please be assured that Collins Bus Corporation is striving to build our buses with the best value and safety available. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
COLLINS BUS CORPORATION

Chris Hiebert
Warranty Coordinator

**COLLINS BUS NOTIFICATION PROGRAM
OWNER RESPONSE POSTCARD**

05VXXX
Form F-8.3.13 Revision 0

VIN **1GBHG31V151158931**

Collins Unit Number **33630**

☐ This vehicle was inspected and repaired according to instructions

☐ This vehicle was inspected and determined to not need repair

☐ This vehicle was stolen

Name _____

☐ This vehicle was destroyed

Address _____

☐ This vehicle was sold to:

City _____

State / ZIP _____

OWNER'S (OR FORMER OWNER'S) SIGNATURE

**COLLINS BUS NOTIFICATION PROGRAM
OWNER RESPONSE POSTCARD**

05VXXX
Form F-8.3.13 Revision 0

VIN **1GBHG31V851241479**

Collins Unit Number **33633**

☐ This vehicle was inspected and repaired according to instructions

☐ This vehicle was inspected and determined to not need repair

☐ This vehicle was stolen

Name _____

☐ This vehicle was destroyed

Address _____

☐ This vehicle was sold to:

City _____

State / ZIP _____

OWNER'S (OR FORMER OWNER'S) SIGNATURE

**COLLINS BUS NOTIFICATION PROGRAM
OWNER RESPONSE POSTCARD**

05VXXX
Form F-8.3.13 Revision 0

VIN **1GBHG31VX51159494**

Collins Unit Number **33631**

☐ This vehicle was inspected and repaired according to instructions

☐ This vehicle was inspected and determined to not need repair

☐ This vehicle was stolen

Name _____

☐ This vehicle was destroyed

Address _____

☐ This vehicle was sold to:

City _____

State / ZIP _____

OWNER'S (OR FORMER OWNER'S) SIGNATURE

**COLLINS BUS NOTIFICATION PROGRAM
OWNER RESPONSE POSTCARD**

05VXXX
Form F-8.3.13 Revision 0

VIN **1GBHG31V551240743**

Collins Unit Number **33634**

☐ This vehicle was inspected and repaired according to instructions

☐ This vehicle was inspected and determined to not need repair

☐ This vehicle was stolen

Name _____

☐ This vehicle was destroyed

Address _____

☐ This vehicle was sold to:

City _____

State / ZIP _____

OWNER'S (OR FORMER OWNER'S) SIGNATURE