



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 23, 2009

MR. DAN C. ALLEN
CHIEF ENGINEER PRODUCT DESIGN
NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES, INC.
106 NATIONAL DRIVE
ANNISTON, AL 36207

NVS-215dgl
09V-133

Subject: ARTICULATING JOINT WELD SEPARATION

Dear MR. ALLEN:

This letter serves to acknowledge North American Bus Industries' (NABI) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

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:

NABI/60BRT/2005-2007
NABI/60LFW/2003-2004
NABI/65BRT/2007

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-133

Mfg's Report Date: April 16, 2009

Components: STRUCTURE: FRAME AND MEMBERS: UNDERBODY SHIELDS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 579

Summary:

NABI IS RECALLING 579 MY 2005-2007 60BRT MODEL YEAR 2007 65BRT AND MY 2003-2004 60LFW TRANSIT BUSES. THESE BUSES MAY CONTAIN A DEFECTIVE WELDED CROSSMEMBER ASSEMBLY IN THE UNDERSTRUCTURE. THIS CROSSMEMBER IS A WELDED ASSEMBLY THAT INCLUDES A STEEL CHANNEL WELDED TO THE ARTICULATED JOINT CASTING AT THE FRONT TRAILER SECTION OF THE BUS. UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, THIS WELD MAY CRACK AND THE WELDED CROSSMEMBER ASSEMBLY MAY BEGIN TO SEPARATE. ONCE PARTIAL SEPARATION OCCURS, THE CENTER PORTION OF THE BUS IN THE AREA OF THE FRONT OF THE TRAILER MAY DROP. IF THIS CONDITION IS UNDETECTED, ADDITIONAL SEPARATION OF THE JOINT MAY OCCUR UNTIL THE FRONT SECTION OF THE TRAILER CONTACT THE ROAD SURFACE.

Consequence:

THIS COULD RESULT IN LOSS CONTROL OF THE BUS INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH. THIS COULD ALSO RESULT IN A LOSS OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND ENGINE CONTROLS. THIS LOSS OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND ENGINE CONTROLS MAY RENDER THE VEHICLE STALLED IN A ROADWAY. ADDITIONALLY, THE FLOOR INSIDE THE VEHICLE WILL BECOME UNEVEN POSING A RISK TO PASSENGERS IN THE VEHICLE.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND REPAIR INCLUDING INSTALLATION OF AN ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENT TO THE AFFECT JOINT. THIS REPAIR WILL BE PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT APRIL 23, 2009. OWNER MAY CONTACT NABI AT 1-888-391-1777.

Notes:

NABI RECALL NO. 20091. 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 a Preliminary Evaluation, PE09-018, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

The information in your defect report appears to fulfill the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

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

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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 Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at 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 be 'G. Person', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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