



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 30, 2009

DAVID M MIHALICK
STANDARDS COMPLIANCE MANAGER
THOR INDUSTRIES, INC.
419 WEST PIKE STREET
PO BOX 629
JACKSON CENTER, OH 45334-0629

NVS-215gl
09V-369

SUBJECT: SIDE CONNECTOR HORIZON/LUMINATOR

DEAR MR. MIHALICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Champion Bus' 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:

CHAMPION/AMERICAN CRUSADER/2007
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2005-2007
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2009
CHAMPION/CTS/2006
CHAMPION/CTS/2007
CHAMPION/CTS/2008
CHAMPION/CTS/2009
CHAMPION/CTS/2010
CHAMPION/CTS/2004
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2007
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2008
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2009
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2003
CHAMPION/EZ-TRANS/2007-2010
CHAMPION/HIGH FLOOR IC/2010
CHAMPION/LO-TRANS/2005-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-369

Mfg's Report Date: September 24, 2009

Components: INTERIOR LIGHTING

Potential Number of Units Affected: 69

Summary:

CHAMPION BUS IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2003 THROUGH 2010 TRANSIT BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JANUARY 2003 AND AUGUST 2009 EQUIPPED WITH LUMINATOR HORIZON LED SIDE DESTINATION SIGNS. THE CONNECTOR BOARD CAN CORRODE DUE TO AN ACCUMULATION OF MOISTURE UNDER THE CONNECTOR.

Consequence:

A SHORT COULD OCCUR, POSSIBLY CAUSING SMOKE AND FIRE.

Remedy:

CHAMPION BUS WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND LUMINATOR WILL REPAIR THE BUSES FREE OF CHARGE. PLEASE SEE LUMINATOR'S DEFECT REPORT 09E-054. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING OCTOBER 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT LUMINATOR AT 1-972-516-3033 OR CHAMPION BUS AT 1-800-331-5761.

Notes:

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).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy 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 your report, Luminator will be handling the remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Luminator's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

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 toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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