



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 17, 2009

MR. CHRIS HIEBERT
WARRANTY/CUSTOMER SERVICE
COLLINS BUS CORPORATION
415 WEST 6TH STREET
SOUTH HUTCHINSON, KS 67505

NVS-215kjs
09V-472

SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR LIFTS CAN STOW UNINTENTIONALLY

DEAR MR. HIEBERT:

This letter serves to acknowledge Collins Bus Corporation's (Collins) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 404, "Platform Lift Installations in Motor Vehicles," for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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:

COLLINS/GRAND BANTAM/2008-2009
COLLINS/MID BUS GRAND GUIDE/2008-2009
COLLINS/MID BUS SUPER GUIDE/2008-2009
COLLINS/SUPER BANTAM/2008-2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-472

Mfg's Report Date: December 3, 2009

Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 63

Summary:

COLLINS IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2008 AND 2009 GRAND BANTAM, SUPER BANTAM, MID BUS GRAND GUIDE, AND MID BUS SUPER GUIDE SCHOOL BUSES EQUIPPED WITH A BRAUN NCL917IB-2 CENTURY WHEELCHAIR LIFT. THE TOE STOP INNER BARRIER AND PLATFORM MAY NOT BE ADJUSTED CORRECTLY POSSIBLY ALLOWING THE UNIT TO BE

MOVED TO THE STOW POSITION. THESE WHEELCHAIR LEFTS FAIL TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 404, "PLATFORM LIFT INSTALLATIONS IN MOTOR VEHICLES."

Consequence:

SHOULD THE LIFT BEGIN TO STOW WHILE IT IS IN USE, SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH COULD OCCUR TO THE LIFT USER.

Remedy:

COLLINS WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND BRAUN DEALERS WILL PERFORM THE REPAIRS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 21, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT COLLINS BUS SERVICE AT 1-800-533-1850 EXT 424.

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).

This campaign is the result of an investigation, PE-404-090806A, conducted by the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The information in your noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following:

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).

Please provide us with the beginning and ending dates for the build date range of the buses affected by this recall.

Your contacts for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, or by email at Kelly.Schuler@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 read "G. Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

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