



February 20, 2009

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) Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Collins Bus Corporation, a division of Collins Industries, Inc.
P.O. Box 2946
Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-2946

573.6(c)(2) The following vehicle models are being recalled:

Collins Bus Corporation 2007 through 2009 model year Collins Bantam, Collins Super Bantam, Mid-Bus Guide and Mid-Bus Super Guide vehicles built on Ford E-350, and Ford E-450 chassis.

573.6(c)(3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is:

Total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is 490. The majority of these vehicles are in the possession of end users. Some vehicles are in the possession of Collins Bus distributors awaiting delivery to end-users.

573.6(c)(4) The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles to contain the defect is:

The population stated in section 573.6(c)(3) represents all Bantam, Super Bantam, Guide and Super Guides produced on Ford E-350 and E-450 chassis from November 3, 2006 to January 1, 2009. An estimated 90% of the vehicles contain this defect.

573.6(c)(5) Description of the defect:

Changes to manufacturing procedures resulted in the omission of (2) of the bolts and associated hardware attaching the vehicle body to the chassis frame rails immediately behind the rear axle.

573.6(c)(6) The following is a summary of all the events that were the basis for determining the defect.

During the week of January 26, 2009 non routine engineering inspections of the manufacturing processes revealed an undocumented process change had been made. This process change allowed for the noted body bolts and associated hardware to be left uninstalled. To date, corrective actions have been put in place to assure proper installation of this hardware.

Subsequent inspection of all available production vehicles with the same design revealed that these two body mounting bolts and associated hardware were consistently not installed. Review of manufacturing records revealed this condition may exist on vehicles produced from November 3, 2006. All product that has been built since January 1, 2009 has been produced or reworked correctly.

No previous warranty claims or reports of damage due to this defect exist. This is a proactive safety recall campaign.

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573.6(c)(7) Test results or data:

The determination of this potential safety concern was not based on test data. The basis of the campaign is not noncompliance.

573.6(c)(8)(i) The defect will be corrected as follows:

Customers will be instructed to take their vehicles to Collins Bus distributor for inspection and subsequent repairs if required. The defect will be corrected by installing any missing body mount hardware. Collins bus Corporation will provide these services to our customers at no charge.

573.6(c)(8)(ii) Correspondence to notify Collins Bus Corporation distributors and Customers of the safety recall:

Mailing of Customer and Distributor notification letters is scheduled to be completed by March 6, 2009
Parts are anticipated to be available at the time of the mailing.

573.6(c)(10)

Attached is a copy of the proposed Owners Notification Letter and Owner Response Postcard that 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 X424
Fax: 620-662-8484
E-mail: chris.hiebert@collinsbus.com
Mailing Address: Collins Bus Corporation
P.O. Box 2946
Hutchinson, KS 67504-2946

Sincerely,
COLLINS BUS CORPORATION

Chris Hiebert
Warranty/Customer Service