



March 4, 2009

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

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OFFICE OF DEFECT
INVESTIGATION

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) Vehicle manufacturer:

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

573.6(c)(2) Vehicle models involved in the recall:

Collins Bantam, Collins Super Bantam, Collins Grand Bantam, Mid Bus Guide, Mid Bus Super Guide, and Mid Bus Grand Guide buses manufactured by Collins Bus Corporation between January 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009. Based on the warranty claims made, Collins Bus Corporation determined that the affected buses were limited to buses manufactured in 2008. Buses manufactured before or after 2008 do not appear to contain the defect.

573.6(c)(3) The total number of vehicles involved in this recall:

The number of vehicles involved in this recall is 2741. The majority of these vehicles are in the possession of end users. Some are in the possession of Collins or Mid Bus distributors awaiting delivery to end-users.

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

Less than 5% of the total recall population is believed to contain the defect.

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

The bolts used to mount the body to the chassis frame rail may have been improperly installed which could lead to a failure of the bolts. Failure of these bolts will result in an inadequate connection of the bus body to the bus chassis and, in the event of a vehicle crash, there may be an increased risk of personal injury to the vehicle occupants.

Depending upon bus model there will be 10 to 14 body mount bolts and associated hardware. Any missing, broken, or over-torqued body mount bolts found upon inspection must be replaced.

573.6(c)(6) Summary of all the events that were the basis for determining the defect:

In 2008 Collins Bus Corporation had three isolated warranty reports for broken body mount bolts in the subject type buses. Collins Bus Corporation received several more warranty claims for the same issue in early 2009 for buses built in 2008. Collins Bus Corporation has since determined that the bolts being used to mount the subject bus bodies may have been improperly installed. Failure of these bolts will result in an inadequate connection of the bus body to the bus chassis and, in the event of a vehicle crash, there may be an increased risk of personal injury to the vehicle occupants. Because of these findings, Collins Bus Corporation has determined a safety recall

is necessary to identify and repair buses with missing, damaged, or over-torqued bolts. No incident of a bus body actually breaking free from the chassis nor injuries resulting from this defect have been reported to Collins Bus Corporation.

573.6(c)(8)(i) Description of the correction of the defect:

Customers will be instructed to take their vehicle to their Collins or Mid Bus distributor for inspection. The inspection will consist of identifying broken or missing bolts and measuring the torque of all body mount bolts. If the inspection reveals broken, missing, or over-torqued body mount bolts, the body mount bolts, nuts, and washers will be replaced. Collins Bus Corporation will provide these services to our customers at no charge. Any Customer who has made repairs of this defect prior to this notice will be reimbursed the cost of those repairs.

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 13, 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:

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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