

September 24, 2009

VIA E-MAIL - RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED

09V-369
(2 Pages)

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Champion Bus
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Champion has been notified by Luminator concerning a safety defect present in horizontal side LED signs shipped from 2001 to present. Luminator has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has assigned recall number 09E – 054 to the Luminator recall campaign.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by Champion were built with Luminator horizontal side LED signs that contain the defect.

As more specifically set forth below, Luminator has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective horizontal side LED signs. Champion will provide Luminator with a list of dealers and owners to assist Luminator in remedying the defect. Luminator will be filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The horizontal side LED signs supplied by Luminator have been used on the following buses:

<u>Model</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Defender	2003, 2007, 2008, 2009
CTS	2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
Lo-Trans	2005, 2006
Challenger	2005, 2006, 2007, 2009
EZ-Trans	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
American Crusader	2007
High Floor IC	2010

The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 69. Buses containing this defect were built between January 2003 and August 2009.

- B. Description of Defect. In the horizontal side LED signs, when the configuration leaves a connector open, the potential exists for moisture to collect resulting in corrosion of the electronic circuit board. This corrosion could allow a potential short which would result in the failure of the sign. In rare instances, the short could result in a fire, which could lead to property damage, personal injury, or death.

- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion was informed by Luminator via e-mail of the safety defect on September 17, 2009.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Luminator in connection with recall campaign 09E-054, Luminator will replace the electrical circuit connector board on all signs built in 2007 and prior. On signs built since 2008, there has been no evidence of corrosion. These signs will be cleaned and capped to prevent moisture from reaching the circuit board. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact Champion or Luminator in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed. Champion has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner and Dealer Notifications. Champion will provide Luminator a list of the owner's and dealers affected by this recall and assist Luminator in contacting them. A copy of the letters will be provided shortly for your approval.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Luminator will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 09E-054. Because the information included by Luminator in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Champion buses subject to this recall campaign, Champion will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. Campaign Number. Champion does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Champion will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Champion with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Champion in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363 or Champion at 810-724-6474.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager