

09V-371  
(4 pages)



North American  
Bus Industries, Inc.

**BY FACSIMILE (202/366-7882) & U.S. MAIL**

September 28, 2009

Daniel C. Smith, Esq.  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: NABI Safety Recall #20092

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is a Vehicle Defect Initial Information Report, which is being submitted by North American Bus Industries, Inc. pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall.

Very truly yours,

North American Bus Industries, Inc. (NABI)

Dan C. Allen  
Chief Engineer Product Design

Enclosures

RECEIVED  
2009 SEP 29 A 10: 05  
OFFICE OF VEHICLE DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION

**NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES, INC. (NABI)**

**VEHICLE DEFECT  
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT**

**September 28, 2009**

**NABI Recall No. 20092**

North American Bus Industries, Inc. (NABI) submits the following information in accordance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 C.F.R Part 573.

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION:

MAKE	MODEL	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURED DATES		OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
				FROM	THROUGH	
NABI	40LFW	2009	55	3/1/04	7/31/07	NABI Low Floor City Transit Bus
	45CLFW	2008-2009	124	3/1/07	9/30/07	NABI Low Floor City Transit Bus

Total Number of Vehicles Subject to Recall: 179

NABI does not know the percentage of vehicles that actual contain the defect, but the company is recalling 100 % of the potentially affected population.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:**

Certain 40' and 45' NABI City Transit Buses, as identified above, may contain a defective alternator cable assembly. This cable assembly supplies power from the alternator to the batteries. NABI and supplier, Empire, have determined that some of these cables have a defective crimp on the cable end and the terminal may overheat when high amperage passes through the cable.

**RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:**

The cable terminal may overheat and cause damage to the cable insulation and other components near the cable. If this condition is undetected a direct short circuit could occur, resulting component damage and a fire. This could also result in a loss of electrical power and engine controls. This loss of electrical power and engine controls may render the vehicle stalled in a roadway and pose a risk to motor vehicle safety.

**CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT:**

On or about August 28, 2009 a NABI engineer reported signs of cable ends overheating on certain 40LFW buses in Westchester County NY.

An investigation was initiated by NABI with the supplier, Empire. Subsequent investigation revealed that certain cable ends may not have been crimped properly. While it was unlikely that the end would separate from the cable, the current carrying capability through the cable end may have been compromised. During the investigation it was determined that other alternator cable assemblies supplied by Empire may have been shipped to NABI and installed on certain 45CLFW buses.

On September 21, 2009 NABI determined that a safety related defect existed and to recall certain 40LFW and 45CLFW manufactured for 2 customers located in Westchester County, NY and Los Angeles, California. Other 40LFW buses built by NABI do not have this cable assembly manufactured by Empire and are not subject to this recall.

At this time, NABI is not aware of any fire or accident related to this defective cable.

**REMEDY PROGRAM:**

NABI will arrange to have the vehicles the defective cables replaced. This replacement campaign is already underway at both customer locations. This repair will be performed free of charge.

**OWNER NOTIFICATION:**

A draft of NABI's owner letter is enclosed for review and approval by NHTSA. NABI has already notified all affected owners by phone. NABI expects formal owner notification to begin on or about October 9, 2009

**PRE-NOTIFICATION REMEDY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM:**

All of the subject vehicles are still covered under the manufacturer's warranty. Therefore, NABI requests that, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. §577.11(e), it be exempted from providing a pre-notification reimbursement plan.

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