

Elkhart Coach

52807 County Road 7
Elkhart, Indiana 46514

Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

October 6, 2009

(c)(2) **Manufacturer:** Elkhart Coach
52807 County Road 7
Elkhart, Indiana 46514
(574) 264-5179

Brands: Elkhart Coach

(c)(2) **Vehicles identification:**

Models affected:

ECI and ECII

Model Years: 2008-2009

Manufacture Dates: 09/26/08-11/17/08

Basis for Determining Population: All models built with certain Air Conditioning Equipment. Specifically the recall process applies to the Carrier rooftop mounted "K410 Condenser Assemblies".

Component Manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Carrier Corporation.

(c)(3) **Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:** 5 buses

(c)(4) **Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect:** 100%

(c)(5) **Description of the Defect:** Analysis by Carrier of the potential safety issue determined that if there is a restriction to the normal operation of one or more of the K410's three fans, the existing over-current protection (circuit breaker) may not be sufficient to allow a safe failure mode.

(c)(6) **Chronology of Principle Events:**

On September 2, 2009, Carrier was notified by Chitten Bus Service that the fiber glass cover of a K410 Unit mounted on the roof of a bus had suffered damage as a result of what appeared to be exposure to heat. In response thereto, Carrier filed a defect information report with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA") notifying the agency of the above referenced potential safety issue. Elkhart Coach has a complete list of the 5 Condenser units and Serial Numbers that were determined to have the defect. No claims, accidents, injuries or fatalities had been associated with the defect. Based on a review of these identification numbers and review of Carrier's part 573 defect information report, Elkhart Coach has determined the need to complete the recall procedures.

(c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** Not applicable

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(c)(8) Remedial program:

Carrier has undergone its root cause analysis and developed a retrofit to address this potential safety issue. It was determined that installation of an additional 15 amp inline fuse in each of the (3) fan's circuits would open the circuit in the event a fan's malfunction results in an over current condition. A retrofit kit composed of three (3) inline fuse holders, fuses, connectors and complete instructions, will be provided by Carrier for each K-410 Unit. In the interim, and as a precautionary measure, we are requesting the operators of buses installed with K410 Units not operate the units and disconnect them until retrofitted.

Estimated Dealer Notification Date: All of the buses with the affected K410 Assemblies were sold to one dealer (North Central Bus Sales) and were in turn sold to two unique customer (MNDOT) Gold Cross and Trailblazer Transit. Elkhart Coach estimates dealer notification to be complete by 10/7/09.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Elkhart Coach estimates owner notification to be complete by 10/07/09. Completed warranty activations forms have identified two specific MNDOT locations and contact information where the buses were delivered.

Reimbursement Plan: Parts and labor for the repair will be at no charge through the Carrier claims department.

(c)(9) Communication sent to dealers and owners: A copy of Elkhart Coach's dealer notification letters been submitted with this report.

(c)(10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: A copy of Elkhart Coach's owner notification letter has been submitted with this report.

(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number: #EQ09E-055 K410 Recall