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By Recall Mgt Div. at 7:43 am, Nov 20, 2009



November 17, 2009

Recall 09V-219

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Thomas Built Buses, Inc. has decided that certain Minotour model buses manufactured between February 5, 2003 and July 3, 2008 fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217, "Emergency Push-out Window Release Handle Clearance Requirements". These units are identified on the enclosed postcard (Form PSD 304).

The non-conformity involves the emergency window release handle. Vehicles with certain seat back and window combinations may be configured such that the emergency window release mechanism is located outside of the low-force region specified by FMVSS 217. In the event of an emergency evacuation, improperly located emergency exit release mechanisms may delay evacuation and increase the risk of personal injury to vehicle occupants.

You should immediately contact your Thomas Built Buses dealer for an appointment to have your vehicle modified. Thomas will remedy this defect without charge. The remedy will consist of inspecting for the two inch minimum requirement and possibly one of three different repairs, including relocation of emergency window, replace vertical push-out with horizontal push-out or replace vertical push-out with vertical push-out, reversed handle. It will take approximately up to 1.3 hour per window according to which procedure is needed. To arrange for repairs, contact your local Thomas Built Buses dealer. After the repair is made, please complete each postage paid card separately and return it to Thomas Built Buses to verify completion.

In addition to being used to verify repair completion, the postcard must be completed and returned if the vehicle does not need repair, if you no longer own the vehicle, or the vehicle identified on the postcard has been exported, stolen, or destroyed/totaled. Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving the recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

If you have had your vehicle repaired due to this defect prior to receipt of this notice and you have incurred any costs, you may be eligible for reimbursement. For further information, please contact the Customer Support office at (336) 889-4871, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time Monday through Friday. To find a dealer in your area please go to www.thomasbus.com.

If the defect is not remedied without charge and within a reasonable time which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, also please contact the Customer Support Office at (336)889-4871. You may also submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20590, or phone the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153) or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may notify the Manager, Recall and Public Compliance, Road and Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety Branch, Transport Canada, Ottawa, Ontario or phone (613)993-9851

Sincerely,

Tracy Sauerbrey
Warranty/Recall Department

Enclosure