



February 5, 2010

Recall 09V-394

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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on certain model year 2009 and 2010 Saf-T-Liner C2, HDX, MVP-EF and Minotour model school and transit buses manufactured between March 31, 2008 and February 18, 2009. These units are identified on the enclosed postcard (Form PSD 304).

The defect involves the Specialty Manufacturing LED lights. A sub-supplier wiring cable change may cause separation of wires which renders the LED lights inoperable. The lights may stop functioning without warning reducing the visibility of a stopped bus. Reduced visibility during the loading or unloading process could put students at risk of injury.

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 inspection to determine if they contain light kits within the suspect date range. Light kits within the suspect range will be replaced. It will take approximately .1 for inspection and .5 for repair if 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



Specialty Manufacturing Inc. LED Light Kit Safety Campaign Bulletin

Model 000290 LED Light Kit and Safety Stop Arm assemblies incorporating this kit (see attached listing)

SMI is recalling LED Light Kits on "Specialty" brand School Bus Stop Arms manufactured between March 31, 2008 and December 18, 2008 (refer to **Figure 1**), and Light Kits manufactured between Date Code J08030 and J08332 (refer to **Figure 2**) due to the potential for reduced service life. This recall bulletin includes Light Kits installed on buses or new, unused Light Kits in white factory boxes (refer to **Figure 3**). All units meet the requirements of FMVSS 131, but may be subject to reduced service life.

Note: All certified replacement Light Kits will be designated by a ¼" black band at the "Y" joint (refer to **Figure 4**). Units with this designation are not subject to reduced service life and are not covered by this recall.

Figure 1

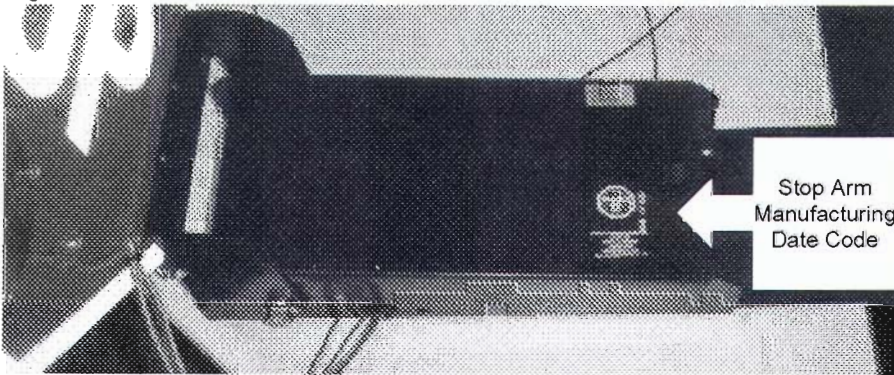


Figure 2

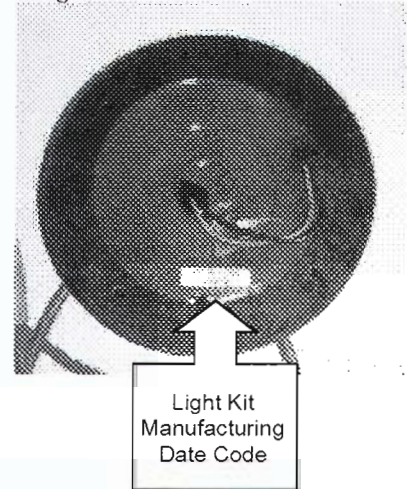


Figure 3

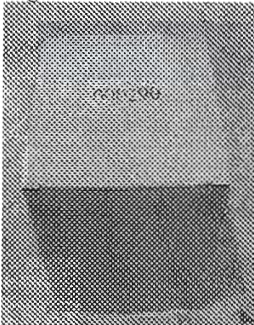
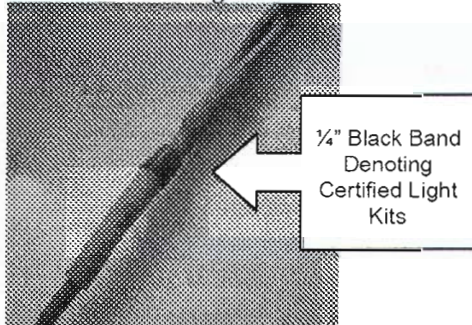


Figure 4



To expedite the repair or replacement of suspect LED Light Kits, request replacement kits by contacting SMI Warranty Service using one of the three methods outlined below.

- **Web:** Point your Web browser to http://www.smiglobal.net/tech_bulletins.php and click on the **000290 Recall Campaign** link under the **Stop Arms & Blades** section.
- **E-mail:** Send an e-mail to SMI at warranty@smiglobal.net indicating the quantity of LED light kits you have for return, your complete shipping address, contact name and phone number, and, if applicable, vehicle VIN number.
- **Phone:** Contact SMI Warranty Service Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm, EST at 1-800-951-7867, Option 7 for a Return Materials-Authorization (RMA) number.

SMI Stop Arm Assemblies incorporating 000290 LED Light Kits

<u>Model</u>	<u>Description</u>
000290	KIT-LED STROBING STOP ARM
000580	BLADE ASSY-REFL W/STRB/LED LTS
002380	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT
002380C	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT
002381	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT,RR MT
002381C	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT, C2
002970	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED
002970B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED
002970C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED,
002970R	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED, RT-RR
002971	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002971B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002971C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002974	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,ARR
002974B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,ARR
002980	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STROBING LED
002980B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STB LED,BBIRD
002980C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,C2
002981	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M
002981B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M
002981C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M, C2
002984C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,ARRET,C2
005970C	S/A-ELEC,HI-INT BLD,NON-STB LED,C2
005970M	S/A-5.5 SER,HI-IN,NON-STB LED
005980C	S/A-ELEC,HI-INT BLD,STB LED,C2
005980M	S/A-ELEC 5.5 S,HI-INT,STB LED
005981M	S/A-5.5 SER,HI-IN,STB LED,RR
005988M	S/A-ELEC 5.5 S,HI-INT,STB LED,8"STOP
006380	S/A-SLD ST,DIA GRD,STRB LED
006970	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,NON-STRB LED
006971	S/A-SLD ST,H.I.,NON-STB LED,RR
006974	S/A-SLD,HI INT,N-STB LED ARRET
006980	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,STROBING LED
006981	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,STB LED,RR-M

To expedite the repair or replacement of products in the field, please follow the steps below.

NOTE: Light Kits outside the date range specified in this safety campaign are subject to SMI's Standard Warranty Policy. Your SMI warranty representative will assist you with any questions.

- Service kits are available immediately and may be requested by one of three methods outlined above.
- **DO NOT RETURN LIGHT KITS UNTIL REPLACEMENT LIGHT KITS HAVE ARRIVED.** Returned in-service Light Kits must be placed into the **brown** replacement kit boxes for shipment to the warranty center (refer to Figure 5).

Figure 5



- All in-service lights w/gaskets (four per assembly) must be placed in the enclosed bags (one light per bag).
- All returned kits must be **complete** with no missing components. **(4) Lights (4) Gaskets**
- Write the RMA number in the space provided on the return box label and check the boxes confirming the contents.

RMA# _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Lights in bags
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Gaskets

- New, unused product must be returned in original white cartons (refer to Figure 3) and over-boxed in corrugated shipping boxes.
- Return all Light Kits using the UPS ARS return shipping label enclosed in each box. This label may be used for individual or master pack return shipments.

ALL QUALIFYING LIGHT KITS MUST BE RETURNED TO:

**Warranty Center
3900 Central Parkway
Hudsonville, MI 49426**

STOP ARM WIRING CONFIGURATION

- When installing replacements, the wiring should be routed in the same configuration as original OEM installation to provide proper clearances.