



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 14, 2010

MR. KEVIN WALKER
ENGINEERING MANAGER
STARTRANS BUS CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 463
GOSHEN, IN 46527

NVS-215kjs
10V-203

SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR LIFTS/UP BUTTON

DEAR MR. WALKER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Startrans Bus Corporation's (Skyline) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the vehicles described below for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

STARTRANS/CANDIDATE/2009
STARTRANS/CANDIDATE II/2009
STARTRANS/PRESIDENT/2009
STARTRANS/SENATOR/2009
STARTRANS/SENATOR HD/2009
STARTRANS/SENATOR II/2009
STARTRANS/TROLLEY/2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 10V-203

Mfg's Report Date: May 3, 2010

Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 183

Summary:

STARTRANS BUS IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2009 CANDIDATE, CANDIDATE II, SENATOR, SENATOR HD, PRESIDENT, TROLLEY, AND SENATOR II TRANSIT BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM SEPTEMBER 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 18, 2009, AND FITTED WITH CERTAIN RICON S SERIES AND K SERIES L-MODEL WHEELCHAIR LIFTS. DUE TO A PROBLEM IN THE SOFTWARE THAT CONTROLS THE LIFT'S "UP" FUNCTION, SHOULD THE "UP" BUTTON BE RELEASED BEFORE THE FLOOR LEVEL LIMIT SWITCH IS ACTIVATED, THE LIFT MAY CONTINUE ITS UPWARD TRAVEL AND MAY OVERRUN THE FLOOR LEVEL CUT OFF POINT.

Consequence:

WHEN THE PLATFORM OVERRUNS THE VEHICLE FLOOR LEVEL AND STOPS AT AN ANGLE FROM 15-20 DEGREES, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A PERSON IN A WHEELCHAIR TO TIP OVER AND FOR SOMEONE STANDING ON THE PLATFORM TO FALL, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN INJURIES.

Remedy:

STARTRANS BUS WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND THE REPAIRS WILL BE PERFORMED BY AUTHORIZED RICON DEALERS FREE OF CHARGE. A SOFTWARE SOLUTION FOR THIS SAFETY DEFECT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION. UNTIL THE SOFTWARE SOLUTION IS AVAILABLE, RICON WILL PROVIDE OWNERS WITH A BULLETIN OUTLINING PROPER WHEELCHAIR LIFT OPERATION AND WILL SHIP OWNERS A DVD-BASED TRAINING AID TO PROMOTE PROPER LIFT OPERATION AT NO COST. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MAY 2010. OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON AT 1-818-267-3000 OR STARTRANS BUS AT 1-574-642-0811.

Notes:

OWNERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577. Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at

RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement