



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-204

SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR LIFTS/INTERLOCK BELT

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/2007-2009  
STARTRANS/CANDIDATE II/2007-2009  
STARTRANS/PRESIDENT/2007-2009  
STARTRANS/SENATOR/2007-2010  
STARTRANS/SENATOR HD/2007-2009  
STARTRANS/SENATOR II/2007-2009  
STARTRANS/TROLLEY/2007-2009

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 10V-204    **Mfg's Report Date:** May 3, 2010

**Components:** EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 805

**Summary:**

STARTRANS BUS IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2007 THROUGH 2010 CANDIDATE, CANDIDATE II, SENATOR, SENATOR HD, PRESIDENT, TROLLEY, SENATOR II, AND SENTINAL TRANSIT BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM DECEMBER 2007 THROUGH DECEMBER 18, 2009, AND FITTED WITH RICON PUBLIC USE LIFTS. THE RESTRAINT BELT ON THESE LIFTS WAS DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE LIFT FROM MOVING, UNLESS THE TONGUE OF THE BELT IS FULLY ENGAGED AND LATCHED IN THE BUCKLE. RICON HAS DISCOVERED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE OPERATOR TO INSERT THE BELT TONGUE INTO THE BUCKLE WITHOUT FULLY ENGAGING THE LATCHING MECHANISM. IN THIS CASE, THE RESTRAINT BELT WOULD APPEAR TO BE LATCHED, AND THE OPERATOR COULD RUN THE LIFT. IF THE RESTRAINT BELT TONGUE IS NOT FULLY ENGAGED INTO THE RESTRAINT BELT BUCKLE, AND LATCHED, THE LIFT MAY OPERATE WITH AN OCCUPANT ON THE PLATFORM.

**Consequence:**

THE USER OF THE LIFT COULD BE INJURED SHOULD THE LIFT MOVE WITHOUT THE RESTRAINT BELT PROPERLY BUCKLED.

**Remedy:**

STARTRANS BUS IS WORKING WITH RICON AND RICON WILL BE PERFORMING THE REMEDY FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. PLEASE SEE RICON'S DEFECT REPORT 09E-060. RICON WILL PROVIDE CUSTOMERS WITH A WARNING DECAL AND A DVD-BASED TRAINING AID. 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](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at

[RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto: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