



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 28, 2010

MR. DAVID M. MIHALICK
STANDARDS COMPLIANCE MANAGER
THOR INDUSTRIES
419 WEST PIKE STREET
P.O. BOX 629
JACKSON CENTER, OH 45334-0629

NVS-215dgl
10V-647

SUBJECT: INTERMEDIATE STEERING COLUMN/TRW

DEAR MR. MIHALICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Champion Bus' notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect in the vehicles listed 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:

GENERAL COACH/M1235/2010-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 10V-647

Mfg's Report Date: December 21, 2010

Components: STEERING COLUMN

Potential Number of Units Affected: 12

Summary:

CHAMPION BUS IS RECALLING CERTAIN VEHICLES BUILT ON FREIGHTLINER S2 CHASSIS AND EQUIPPED WITH TRW IGEN3 INTERMEDIATE STEERING COLUMNS. THE WELD AROUND THE IGEN3 STEERING SHAFT TUBE THAT SECURES THE SPLINE TUBE TO THE INTERMEDIATE TUBE MAY BE MISLOCATED (I.E., NOT FULLY OVER THE SEAM CREATED WHEN THE TUBES ARE PRESSED TOGETHER.)

Consequence:

MISLOCATED WELDS MAY RESULT IN TORSIONAL AND AXIAL STRENGTH FALLING BELOW ACCEPTABLE LEVELS. THIS CONDITION COULD RESULT IN SEPARATION OF THE STEERING COLUMN, LOSS OF STEERING CONTROL AND A VEHICLE CRASH WITHOUT WARNING.

Remedy:

DAIMLER TRUCKS/FREIGHTLINER WILL HANDLE THE REMEDY AND QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. PLEASE SEE FREIGHTLINER'S DEFECT REPORT (10V-322). FREIGHTLINER WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND THE BUSES WILL BE REPAIRED FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING DECEMBER 2010. OWNERS MAY CONTACT DAIMLER TRUCKS/FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY 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.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

As stated in your report, Freightliner will notify owners on behalf of Champion bus. Freightliner's owner letter does not identify the involved Champion Bus vehicles. Therefore, you are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers demonstrating that the owner letters to be mailed will identify those vehicles.

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).

As stated in your report, Freightliner will be handling the owner notification, remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, as the final stage manufacturer, Champion Bus retains responsibility for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in its vehicles. Accordingly, should Freightliner's campaign not be satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement