

419 West Pike Street, PO Box 629, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0629

March 26, 2010

**VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

10V-131
(2 Pages)

Re: Champion Bus
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Champion Bus has been notified by Ricon concerning a safety defect involving wheelchair lifts built between September 2007 and October 2009 inclusive. Ricon has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has assigned recall number 09E-061 to the Ricon recall campaign.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by Champion Bus were built with Ricon wheelchair lifts that contain the defect.

As more specifically set forth below, Ricon has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective wheelchair lifts. Champion Bus will provide Ricon with a list of dealers and owners to assist Ricon in remedying the defect. Ricon will be filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The defective wheelchair lifts supplied by Ricon have been used on the following buses:

<u>Make</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Crusader	2009 - 2010
Challenger	2009 - 2010
Defender	2008 - 2010
CTS RE	2010

These buses were manufactured between September 2007 and February 2010. The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 223.

- B. Description of Defect. The wheelchair lifts contain defective software that controls the lift up function, if the switch is released before the floor level limit switch is activated, the lift may continue its upward travel for approximately 1 second before stopping. The continued upward travel may overrun the floor level cut off

point. When the platform overruns the vehicle floor level and stops at an angle from 15 to 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.

- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion Bus received notification from Ricon on March 8, 2010 that the defect with the wheelchair lifts exists.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Ricon in connection with recall campaign 09E-061, Ricon will correct the wheelchair lifts if found to be defective. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact Ricon in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed by Ricon. Ricon will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 09E-061. Ricon has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner Notifications. Ricon will notify the owner's of the buses on behalf of Champion Bus. A copy of the owner's notification letter is attached for approval.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Ricon will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 09E-061. Because the information included by Ricon in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Champion Bus buses subject to this recall campaign, Champion Bus will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. Campaign Number. Champion Bus does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Champion Bus will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Champion Bus with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Champion Bus in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363 or Champion Bus at 810-724-6474.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries, Standards Compliance Manager