



September 22, 2010

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, S.W. Suite 5319
Washington, D.C. 20590

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations - Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Collins Bus Corporation is submitting information relating to a safety recall we are conducting. Specific information is as follows:

573.6(c)(1) Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Collins Bus Corporation, a division of Allied Specialty Vehicles, Inc.
P.O. Box 2946
Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-2946

573.6(c)(2) The following vehicle models are being recalled:

Collins Bus models Super Bantam and Grand Bantam built on Ford and Chevy platforms and Mid Bus models Super Guide and Grand Guide built on Ford and Chevy platforms containing SMI Model 00029 LED Light Kit manufactured for the "Specialty" brand of School Bus Stop arms manufactured between March 31, 2008 and December 18, 2008. The potential units affected were built from March 31, 2008 and July 31, 2009.

573.6(c)(3) The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is:

Total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is 210. The majority of these vehicles are in the possession of end users. Some vehicles are in the possession of Collins Bus distributors awaiting delivery to end-users.

573.6(c)(4) The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles to contain the defect is:

The population stated in section 573.6(c)(3) represents Collins School Buses built from March 31, 2008 through July 31, 2009 with the potentially defective stop arms. An unknown percentage of the vehicles contain this defect.

573.6(c)(5) Description of the defect:

Premature 000290 LED Light Kit failures on the SMI safety stop arms due to a wiring fault. The condition is the result of an SMI sub-supplier change to the wire cable that could cause a separation of the wires. Should this happen it would render the LED lights inoperable. While all units meet the requirements of FMVSS 131, they may be subject to reduced service life due to this potential wiring fault. If the LED lights stop functioning, visibility of a stopped school bus would be decreased possibly endangering a child or pedestrian to injury by passing vehicles.

573.6(c)(6) The following is a summary of all the events that were the basis for determining the defect.

SMI received reports of premature 000290 LED light kit failures on its safety stop arms due to a wiring fault. SMI notified Collins Bus on 7/6/2009 about the equipment defect. Review of manufacturing records revealed this condition may exist on vehicles produced from March 31, 2008 through July 31, 2009. All product that has been built since August 1, 2009 has been produced or reworked correctly. On September 16, 2010 Collins Bus determined this is a proactive safety recall campaign.

573.6(c)(7) Test results or data:

All units meet the requirements of FMVSS 131 but may be subject to reduced service life.

573.6(c)(8)(i) The defect will be corrected as follows:

The solution is to replace the LED Light Kits on the SMI safety stop arms with replacement light kits. Collins Bus will notify owners and light kits will be replaced free of charge. The customer will contact SMI directly to obtain replacement light kits. Light kit replacement will be made to assure compliance to the defects noted in section 573.6(c)(5).

573.6(c)(8)(ii) Correspondence to notify Collins Bus Corporation distributors and Customers of the safety recall:

Mailing of Customer and Distributor notification letters is scheduled to be completed by October 11, 2010.

573.6(c)(10)

Attached is a copy of the proposed Owners Notification Letter and Owner Response Postcard that Collins Bus Corporation will send to the vehicle owners.

573.6(c)(11)

Collins Bus Corporation will use the campaign identification number assigned by NHTSA .

Should you need further information, my contact information is as follows:

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Sincerely,
COLLINS BUS CORPORATION

Mike Hiebert
Warranty/Customer Service