

December 21, 2010

VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED

10V-647
(2 Pages)

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

Re: Champion Bus
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Champion Bus has been notified by Freightliner concerning a safety defect involving chassis built between September 9, 2008 and April 20, 2009 inclusive. Freightliner has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has assigned recall number 10V-322 to the Freightliner 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 Freightliner chassis that contain the defect.

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

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

<u>Make</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
General Coach	M1235	2010 - 2011

These buses were manufactured between August 2009 and December 2010.
The total number of buses subject to this recall campaign is 12.

- B. Description of Defect. Champion Bus was notified that certain Freightliner S2 Chassis equipped with TRW IGEN3 intermediate steering columns contain a safety defect. 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) 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.

- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion Bus received notification from Freightliner on December 17, 2010 that the defect with the chassis exists.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Freightliner in connection with recall campaign 10V-322, Freightliner will correct the chassis if found to be defective. The owners of the buses subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact Freightliner in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed by Freightliner. Freightliner will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 10V-322. Freightliner has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner Notifications. Freightliner will notify the owner's of the buses on behalf of Champion Bus. A copy of the owner's notification letter has been provided with recall 10V-322.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Freightliner will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 10V-322. Because the information included by Freightliner 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