



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

October 31, 2011

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

NVS-215dgl  
11V-518

SUBJECT: V-BAND CLAMP ASSEMBLY/CUMMINS

DEAR MR. MIHALICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Thor Industries' on behalf of Champion Bus (Champion) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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:**

CHAMPION/CTS/2011  
CHAMPION/M1235/2011

**Mfg's Report Date:** October 18, 2011

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 11V-518

**Components:** ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 3

**Summary:**

CHAMPION BUS (CHAMPION) IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2011 CTS AND M1235 TRUCKS MANUFACTURED FROM MARCH 9, 2011, THROUGH JUNE 29, 2011, EQUIPPED WITH A CUMMINS ISX OR ISL DIESEL ENGINE. THE V-BAND CLAMP ASSEMBLY, PART NUMBERS Q187684, Q187685, AND Q187686, USED TO CONNECT THE INLET AND OUTLET CONE SECTIONS TO THE DIESEL OXIDATION CATALYST (DOC)/DIESEL PARTICULATE FILTER (DPF) INCLUDE A T-BOLT WHICH CAN FRACTURE AND FAIL WHEN SUBJECTED TO STRESS OR LOAD. A FRACTURE OR FAILURE OF THE T-BOLT MAY CAUSE THE CLAMP TO LOOSEN AND THE INLET OR OUTLET SECTIONS ATTACHED TO THE DOC/DPF HOUSING TO DISCONNECT.

**Consequence:**

IF THE INLET OR OUTLET SECTIONS DISCONNECT, HOT EXHAUST GASES CAN VENT PRIOR TO EXITING THE TAILPIPE, CREATING THE RISK OF COMBUSTION AND A FIRE. IF BOTH CLAMPS FAIL, THERE IS A RISK IN SOME APPLICATIONS THAT THE DOC/DPF HOUSING MAY DETACH COMPLETELY, CREATING A ROAD HAZARD.

**Remedy:**

CHAMPION IS WORKING WITH CUMMINS TO IDENTIFY AND NOTIFY OWNERS OF THE RECALL CAMPAIGN. REPAIRS WILL BE PERFORMED BY AUTHORIZED CUMMINS DEALERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL BEGAN OCTOBER 10, 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT CUMMINS AT 1-812-377-5000.

**Notes:**

THE NHTSA NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THE CUMMIN'S RECALL IS 11E-031. CUMMINS' RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS C1154. 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).

As stated in your report, Cummins will be handling the owner notification, remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Cummins's campaign is not 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 1-202-366-9525, or by email at [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto: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 "R. Willard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Ric Willard  
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement