



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 18, 2011

MR. KEVIN WALKER
ENGINEERING MANAGER
STARTRANS BUS CORPORATION
2592 E. KERCHER ROAD
GOSHEN, IN 46528

NVS-215kjs
11V-546

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE OF THE REAR DOOR EXIT/FMVSS 217

DEAR MR. WALKER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Startrans Bus Corporation's (Startrans) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 217, "Bus Emergency Exits and Window Retention and Release," for which a safety recall campaign 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:

STARTRANS/MFSAB/2007-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-546 **Mfg's Report Date:** November 8, 2011

Components: STRUCTURE:BODY:DOOR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 436

Summary:

STARTRANS IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2005 THROUGH 2011 MODEL MFSAB SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUSES. THE REAR DOOR EMERGENCY EXIT IS PARTIALLY BLOCKED BY THE BUS SEATS. ACCORDINGLY, THESE BUSES FAIL TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 217, "BUS EMERGENCY EXITS AND WINDOW RETENTION AND RELEASE."

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, EGRESS FROM THE BUS MAY BE HINDERED INCREASING THE RISK OF INJURY TO THE BUS OCCUPANTS.

Remedy:

STARTRANS WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND DEALERS WILL REPAIR THE BUSES FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING NOVEMBER 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT STARTRANS AT 1-574-642-0811.

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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Please provide the following additional information:

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. Also, 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).

Please provide us with the beginning and ending dates for the build date range of vehicles affected by this recall.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which the campaign was initiated. Thereafter, quarterly reports will be due on or before 30 days after close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for the 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 large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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