



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 8, 2011

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

NVS-215kjs
11V-572

SUBJECT: SEAT LATCH MECHANISM/FMVSS 222

DEAR MR. WALKER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Startrans Bus Corporation's (Startrans) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 222, "School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection," 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/2010-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-572 **Mfg's Report Date:** December 2, 2011

Components: SEATS

Potential Number of Units Affected: To be determined

Summary:
STARTRANS IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2010 AND 2011 MFSAB SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM APRIL 14, 2010, THROUGH JUNE 7, 2011, EQUIPPED WITH C. E. WHITE SELF-LATCHING SEAT CUSHIONS. THE SELF-LATCHING MECHANISM USED TO RETAIN THE SEAT CUSHION TO THE FRAME MAY NOT ACTIVATE. ACCORDINGLY, THESE SEATS FAIL TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 222, "SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER SEATING AND CRASH PROTECTION."

Consequence:

VEHICLE OCCUPANTS MAY BE INJURED IN THE EVENT OF A VEHICLE CRASH SHOULD THE SEAT CUSHION FLIP UP OUT OF PLACE. ALSO, OUT OF POSITION SEAT CUSHIONS COULD INTERFERE WITH EMERGENCY exit out OF THE VEHICLE.

Remedy:

STARTRANS WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND DEALERS WILL REPAIR THE SEATS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING DECEMBER 2011 OR EARLY JANUARY 2012. 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 total population of the buses involved in this campaign.

Please be reminded of 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).

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