



419 West Pike Street, PO Box 629, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0629

October 18, 2011

**VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

**11V-518
(2 Pages)**

Mr. Claude H. Harris
Acting 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. Harris:

Champion Bus (Champion) has been notified by Cummins and Freightliner Custom Chassis (FCCC) concerning a safety defect involving engines built between September 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010. Cummins has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this defect. NHTSA has assigned recall number 11E-031 to the Cummins recall campaign. FCCC has also initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this defect. NHTSA has assigned recall number 11V-474 to the FCCC 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 were built with Cummins engines that contain the defect.

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

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The recall population includes the following product brands manufactured by Champion.

<u>Product Brand</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
M1235	2011
CTS	2011

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is: 3.
These vehicles were built between March 9, 2011 and June 29, 2011.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to this recall campaign were manufactured with defective V-Band clamps on the emissions system of the engine. Due to an error in the component supplier's plating process, the T-bolt included on the V-Band clamp assembly may be susceptible to fracture or failure 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. If the inlet or outlet sections disconnect, hot exhaust gases can vent prior to exiting the tailpipe, creating a risk of combustion or damage to adjacent materials. In cases where resilient mounting is employed, the DOC/DPF housing could disconnect completely from the exhaust system or vehicle in the unlikely event that both V-Band clamps were to fail or loosen. In either case, the vehicle's check engine light will illuminate.

- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion was notified by FCCC of the defect on October 17, 2011. There have been no reports of accidents or personal injury as a result of this defect on any Champion vehicles.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As outlined in the Cummins recall 11E-031, the remedy is to replace the defective V-Band clamps. This inspection and remedy will be done at no cost to the owner.
- E. Supplier Information
Cummins Inc.
500 Jackson Street
Columbus, IN 47201
Contact: Steven R. Butler – Director – Product Safety
Phone: 812-377-3713
- F. Owner and Dealer Notifications. Cummins will notify the owners and dealers of the buses on behalf of Champion. Copies of these letters will be submitted by Cummins for approval with recall 11E-031.
- G. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Cummins will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 11E-031. Because the information included by Cummins in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Champion buses subject to this recall campaign, Champion will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- H. Campaign Number. Champion does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Champion will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Champion with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Champion in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact David Mihalick at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363. or Dick Cutcher, Champion at 810-724-6474.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager