



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 19, 2012

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

NVS-215kjs
12V-275

SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR LIFT/OUTER ROLL STOP LATCHING MECHANISM

DEAR MR. MIHALICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Champion Bus' 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/AMERICAN COACH/2008-2011
CHAMPION/AMERICAN CRUSADER/2007-2009
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2008-2010
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2008-2010
CHAMPION/CTSTE/2009-2010
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2008-2010
CHAMPION/TERRASTAR/2010

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-275

Mfg's Report Date: May 17, 2012

Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 892

Summary:

CHAMPION BUS IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2008 THROUGH 2011 TRANSIT BUSES EQUIPPED WITH BRAUN CENTURY-2 AND/OR VISTA-2 WHEELCHAIR LIFTS. OVER TIME AND WITH FREQUENT USE, THE ROLL

STOP LATCHES ON THE OUTER BARRIER MAY BECOME BENT OR MISALIGNED.

Consequence:

A WHEELCHAIR OCCUPANT MAY DEFEAT OR RIDE OVER THE INSUFFICIENTLY LATCHED ROLL STOP. IF THIS OCCURS WHEN THE LIFT PLATFORM IS IN AN ELEVATED POSITION, THE WHEELCHAIR'S OCCUPANT COULD FALL AND SUSTAIN INJURY.

Remedy:

CHAMPION BUS WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND THE REPAIRS WILL BE PERFORMED BY AUTHORIZED BRAUN DEALERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING JUNE 2012. OWNERS MAY CONTACT CHAMPION BUS AT 1-810-724-6474/905-591-9557.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-423 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have received Champion Bus's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please provide the following additional information:

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 your report, Braun will be handling the 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 Braun's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-5227, or 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 successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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