



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 30, 2012

Mr. MIKE SWEITZER
MANAGER
ELKHART COACH
52807 COUNTRY ROAD 7
ELKHART, IN 46514

NVS-215KS
12V-348

Subject: BUS ROOF ESCAPE HATCH/FMVSS 217

Dear Mr. SWEITZER:

This letter serves to acknowledge ELKHART COACH's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) 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:

ELKHART/9215-0200/2011
ELKHART/9250-0700/2011

Mfr's Report Date: July 20, 2012

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-348

Components:

STRUCTURE:BODY:ROOF AND PILLARS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 2

Problem Description:

Elkhart Coach is recalling certain model year 2011 and 2012 transit buses, models 9215-0200 and 9250-0700, equipped with ProLo bus roof escape hatches. Increased friction between the rear plate assemblies, may result in an opening force of the ProLo roof hatches that exceeds Federal standard requirements. Thus, these hatches 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, a noncompliant hatch may not provide a means of readily accessible egress, increasing the risk of injury to the vehicle occupants.

Remedy:

Elkhart Coach will notify the owners, and these buses will be repaired free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin July 31, 2012. Owners may contact Elkhart at 1-574-264-5179.

Notes:

Owners may also 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>.

We have received Elkhart Coach'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 be reminded of the following requirements:

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 one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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