



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 21, 2012

Mr. David Mihalick  
Standards Compliance Manager  
Thor Motor Coach  
419 W. Pike Street  
Jackson Center, OH 45334

NVS-215KS  
12V-593

**Subject:** Wheelchair Lift Armored Cable Short Circuit

Dear Mr. Mihalick:

This letter serves to acknowledge Thor Motor 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:**

CHAMPION/AMERICAN CRUSADER/2009  
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2006, 2008-2013  
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2009-2011  
CHAMPION BUS/DEFENDER/2009-2013

**Mfr's Report Date:** December 18, 2012

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 12V-593

**Components:**

EQUIPMENT

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 73

**Problem Description:**

Champion Bus is recalling certain model year 2006, and certain model year 2008-2013 buses, models: American Crusader, Challenger, Crusader, and Defender; manufactured September 30, 2006, through November 16, 2012. The buses are equipped with a Ricon manufactured wheelchair lift which has an optional armored pendant cable. The cable may have been installed such that it doesn't clear the wheelchair lift and without a protective cover, or a misinstalled protective cover.

**Consequence:**

The cable may contact the power lug at the base of the wheel chair lift causing a short circuit that could result in a fire.

**Remedy:**

Champion Bus is working with Ricon to notify owners. Ricon will provide a supplemental cover kit with instructions, free of charge. Owners may contact Champion Bus at 1-819-724-6474 or Ricon at 1-818-267-3000.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have received Champion'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.

We understand from Champion's defect information report that Ricon will be filing the required six quarterly recall completion rates reports.

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](mailto:kelly.schuler@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto: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 a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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