



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

February 2, 2012

**VIA E-MAIL  
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Ms. Nancy Lewis  
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 Ms. Lewis:

Champion Bus (Champion) has been notified by Freightliner Custom Chassis (FCCC) concerning a safety defect involving chassis built between November 15, 2010 and September 29, 2011. FCCC has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this defect. NHTSA has assigned recall number 11V-576 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 FCCC chassis that contain the defect.

As more specifically set forth below, FCCC has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective chassis. Champion will provide FCCC with a list of dealers and owners to assist FCCC in remedying the defect. FCCC 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>
ABC -M1235	2011-2012

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is: 30.  
These vehicles were built between March 9, 2011 and November 18, 2011.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to this recall campaign were manufactured with the defective chassis. The chassis may have a grid heater relay ground wire that may contact the relay power terminal and rub or chafe,

resulting in a possible short circuit. An electric fault or short circuit could cause a vehicle fire.

- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion was notified by FCCC of the defect on January 17, 2012. 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 FCCC recall 11V-576, the remedy is to inspect and modify if needed the routing of the grid heater relay ground wire to ensure adequate clearance from the power terminal. This inspection and remedy will be done at no cost to the owner.
- E. Owner and Dealer Notifications. FCCC will notify the owners and dealers of the buses on behalf of Champion. Copies of these letters will be submitted by FCCC for approval with recall 11V-576.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. FCCC will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 11V-576. Because the information included by FCCC 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.
- G. 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