

**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management Division at 10:13 am, May 17, 2012

May 17, 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 Braun Corporation (Braun) concerning a safety defect involving wheelchair lifts built between November 20, 2006 and September 10, 2010. Braun has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this defect. NHTSA has assigned recall number 12E-002 to the Braun 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 Braun wheelchair lifts that contain the defect.

As more specifically set forth below, Braun has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective wheelchair lifts. Champion will provide Braun with a list of dealers and owners to assist Braun in remedying the defect. Braun 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>
American Coach	2008-2011
American Crusader	2007-2009
Challenger	2008-2010
Crusader	2008-2010
CTSTE	2009-2010
Defender	2008-2010
Terrastar	2010

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is: 892.  
These vehicles were built between September 14, 2007 and October 29, 2009.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to this recall campaign were manufactured with the defective wheelchair lifts the location of the defect is the

outboard end of the wheelchair lift platform, specifically at the outer barrier. The defect manifests itself when the roll stop latches are no longer capable of restraining the roll stop to prevent wheelchair passengers from defeating or riding over the roll stop. The consequence of the defect is that the roll stop and latch parts may not operate properly or may become bent or misaligned through impact or continued use, and 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/passenger may fall to the ground and sustain injury.

- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Champion was notified by Braun of the defect on February 14, 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 Braun recall 12E-002 the remedy is to replace the roll stop bracket. This inspection and remedy will be done at no cost to the owner.
- E. Owner and Dealer Notifications. Champion will notify the owners and dealers of the buses. Copies of these letters are attached for approval.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Braun will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 12E-002. Because the information included by Braun 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 937-596-7965 or Dick Cutcher, Champion at 810-724-6474.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick  
Thor Industries  
Standards Compliance Manager