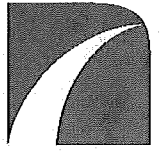


**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management Division at 10:41 am, Sep 12, 2012



North American  
Bus Industries, Inc.

12V-444  
4 Pages

**BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ([RMD.ODI@DOT.GOV](mailto:RMD.ODI@DOT.GOV)) & U.S. MAIL**

September 12, 2012

Nancy L. Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
Attn: Recall Management Division

Subject: NABI Safety Recall #20124

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Attached is a Vehicle Defect Initial Information Report, which is being submitted by North American Bus Industries, Inc. pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall.

Sincerely,

North American Bus Industries, Inc. (NABI)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan C. Allen".

Dan C. Allen  
Chief Engineer  
Ph. 256 453 2242

Enclosures

NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES, INC. (NABI)

VEHICLE DEFECT  
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Date: September 12, 2012

NABI Recall No. 20124

MAKE	MODEL	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURED DATES FROM THROUGH	OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
NABI	416, 40LFW	2010	165	Jan. 1, 2010 July 31, 2010	Certain NABI City Transit Buses equipped with passenger windows manufactured by Ricon Corporation, Panorama City, California.

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Total Number of Vehicles: **165**

Percent Potentially Containing Defect: Estimated 100%

NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES, INC. (NABI)

NABI RECALL NO. 20124

VEHICLE DEFECT  
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

The emergency egress windows on certain NABI city transit buses identified above may be equipped with defective release handles. These windows were supplied by Ricon Corporation, Panorama City, California; Ricon Corporation contact is Mr. Stanton Saucier, Ph. 818 267-3016

**RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:** Under certain conditions, the emergency release handles on the emergency egress passenger windows may fail, causing the window release mechanism to operate improperly. In an emergency situation, the windows may fail to open.

1) CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT:

- **On 5/17/12**, New Jersey Transit notified the window supplier, Ricon Corporation, of broken handles on some windows. The supplier agreed to investigate further to determine the cause of the broken handles.
- **On 6/20/12**, Miami-Dade Transit reported to NABI that window handles on some buses had failed. NABI contacted the supplier, Ricon, regarding this issue.
- **On 7/19/12**, Ricon informed NABI that it had sent a service representative to Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) to inspect and repair some release handles on emergency egress passenger windows that had reportedly failed as a result of excessive force. Ricon reported that these type handles had previously been tested under controlled conditions and had not failed except with 175 lbs. of pull force being applied, well past the 50 lbs. of pull force necessary to open the window.
- **On 7/19/12**, based upon these reports, NABI opened an investigation to determine whether any buses equipped with these windows/handles may contain a safety-related defect.

- **On 8/14/12**, Ricon reported that metallurgical testing on some of the broken handles indicated that the magnesium content was below specification. However, the supplier had not yet determined the root cause of the failures or whether the handles would fail during emergency operation.
- **On 8/24/12**, Ricon reported that it replaced the handles on a small group of buses in the Miami-Dade Transit fleet in order to obtain a sufficient number of undamaged handles from the field for performance testing. Ricon noted that previous tests of 30 handles indicated the handles would withstand a force of up to 150-200 lbs. without failing. The pull force needed to open the window is below 50 lbs. Ricon indicated that it had used the same design and the same handle supplier since 2007 or before.
- **On 9/5/12**, Ricon advised NABI that further testing of the returned handles from MDT had been performed. The test data indicated that the handles could break at relatively low forces and may not be able to open the window when required. Ricon stated that it would be moving forward with a recall of all handles installed in buses between January 2010 and July 2010.
- **On 9/9/12**, the NABI Product Compliance Committee met and determined that a voluntary safety recall should be initiated for all NABI buses built between January 2010 and July 2010 that were equipped with Ricon windows.
- There have been no reports of windows failing to open during an emergency and no injuries have been reported as a result of this condition.

- 2) **REMEDY:** NABI and Ricon will inspect and replace the defective window release handles on the affected vehicles free of charge.
- 3) **EARLIEST DATE TO BE REMEDIED:** September 2012.
- 4) **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE:** There will be no public announcement.
- 5) **OWNER LETTER:** A draft of the customer notification letter will be sent to NHTSA for review and approval.