

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.
- **On 10/16/12**, Ricon provided NABI with a copy of their recall notice and a listing suspect window ship dates from Ricon to NABI. The notice contained different suspect window ship dates (April 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010) than what was previously provided to NABI (January, 2010 through July, 2010).
- **On 10/24/12**, based on the information provided by Ricon, NABI determined that buses were built with Ricon window during the date range provided by Ricon and the recall should be expanded to include all buses with Ricon windows built from Jan 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010.

- 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~~ November 2012.
- 4) **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE:** There will be no public announcement.
- 5) **OWNER LETTER:** A revised draft of the customer notification letter ~~will be sent to NHTSA for review and approval.~~ is attached for review by NHTSA.

