



CHAMPION BUS, INC.

Thor Industries Commercial Bus Division

331 Graham Rd.
Imlay City, MI 48444

NHTSA Recall No. 12V-593

Safety Recall Notice

Dear Customer:

This **Notice** is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the United States National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Champion decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain *American Coach, American Crusader, Challenger, Crusader, and Defender* buses manufactured between September 2006 and November 2012 that have Ricon Corporation wheelchair lifts installed.

The vehicles subject to this recall campaign were manufactured with the defective wheelchair lifts. Ricon has decided that the affected lifts are equipped with a hand held pendant control where upon the cord is protected by a flexible, steel conduit (an armored pendant cable) and an external power lug at the base of the hydraulic pump. In the event the lift is installed such that the armored pendant cable is not managed to be kept clear of the wheelchair lift and the protective, elastomeric cover is either omitted or improperly installed, the armored pendant cable may contact the power lug resulting in a high current short circuit and possibly resulting in a fire

What We Will Do

Champion in cooperation with Ricon will provide owners of all affected wheelchair lifts a rework for the potential defect at no charge for parts or labor.

What You Should Do

Please refer to the attached letter from Ricon. Immediately locate and inspect the affected unit(s) in your fleet. If the pendant has already been replaced such that the lift is no longer equipped with an armored pendant cord, no further action is necessary.

If your local operating requirements mandate the armored pendant cord, make sure the cord is managed so that the cord does not contact the lift, make sure that the protective, elastomeric cover shipped with the lift is properly installed and contact Ricon for supplemental cover kit.

If your local operating requirements DO NOT mandate the armored pendant cord, you may replace the pendant with one equipped with a nonconductive, coiled cord. Ricon will provide coiled cord pendant kit at a 30 percent discount.

Materials are available by calling Ricon Customer Service at (800)322-2884, or by emailing Ricon's Recall Coordinator, at recall.admin@wabtec.com or by locating the nearest Ricon servicing dealer using the locator on the Ricon website – www.riconcorp.com If you experience trouble in locating a dealer, please contact Champion at 810-724-6474.

Notifications

We have notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of this recall and the procedures involved. Should Champion fail or be unable to correct the defect without charge, you may write to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to lessee within 10 days.

We are sorry to cause this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our buses.

Sincerely,

Mike Clark
Service and Parts Manager