



20 June 2012

VIA EMAIL

Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)  
NVS-215  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Progress Update – Recall 12V-132 Lithium-Ion Energy Storage System (Li-Ion ESS)**

Dear Ms. Timian:

New Flyer Industries Canada ULC and New Flyer of America Inc. (together “New Flyer”), is supplying a progress status of the subject recall action.

Prior to any corrections being incorporated, New Flyer notified all affected customers both by phone and by formal letter. New Flyer then arranged for all ESS units to be inspected by personnel from the manufacture of the hybrid drive system (BAE Systems) to clean and remove any existing debris found within the ESS enclosures on those vehicles.

Since the declaration of the recall on the 89 affected vehicles in March 2012, New Flyer has been working with both BAE Systems and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) to develop, test and approve the corrective actions required to correct this defect. The final corrective actions developed will be incorporated on the vehicles in three phases.

Phase I is to incorporate new hardware into the existing ESS units. Specifically the center fuse in the battery pack assembly will be removed, and in its place, a center pack contactor will be installed. The contactor negates the possibility of a dual ground fault occurring across the battery pack, which was the root cause of the defect noted on the other bus manufactures vehicles. At the same time, the existing enclosures are to be inspected and adjusted as required to reduce the potential for moisture and debris from entering. Copies of the repair instructions for these actions (ITS4947 and ITS5000) are attached.

Phase II would be to upgrade the control software for the hybrid drive system to detect and give warning to the operator, if a variety of electrical issues were to occur (over voltage, under voltage, ground faults, etc.) within the ESS unit.

The incorporation of both phase I and phase II on the individual vehicle, will negate the fire potential associated with this recall.

Phases I and II are currently completed at WMATA, and are now being incorporated at all the other effected customer sites. Of the 89 effected vehicles, 64 will have had both phase I and II incorporated by 22 June 2012. Parts are also on site at the west coast properties, and those 22 buses will also start being retrofitted this week. The full complement of affected vehicles are expected to have both phase I and II incorporated on or before July 13<sup>th</sup>.

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Phase III of the recall will be to replace the entire ESS rooftop unit and enclosure. This new ESS package will incorporate better weather proofing and air filtering capabilities on the enclosure housing, to prevent the ingress of moisture and debris into the ESS.

Initial installation of the new ESS enclosure for testing will begin the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> at WMATA. Once the installation has been tested, reviewed and accepted, plans to install the new units on the remainder of the affected vehicles will be made. Once the installation/repair instruction for the ESS replacement is developed and approved, a copy will be sent the Office of Defects Investigation.

New Flyer and BAE anticipate that the majority of the new ESS installations will be completed before the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012.

If you have any additional questions or concerns with regards to this recall, please contact me.

Sincerely,

**NEW FLYER OF AMERICA INC.**  
**NEW FLYER INDUSTRIES CANADA ULC**



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Attachments: ITS4947 – Instructions to Upgrade Energy Storage System  
ITS5000 – Rework BAE Energy Storage System Covers