



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 27, 2013

Mr. David Mihalick
Standards Compliance Manager
Champion Bus, Inc.
419 West Pike Street
Jackson Center, OH 45334

NVS-215JN
13V-422

Subject: Electric Door Actuator May Lead to Fire

Dear Mr. Mihalick:

This letter serves to acknowledge Champion Bus, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

CHAMPION/AMERICAN COACH/2010
CHAMPION/AMERICAN CRUSADER/2010
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2009-2010
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2009-2010
CHAMPION/CTS/2010
CHAMPION/CTS-FE/2010
CHAMPION/CTS-RE/2010
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2009-2011
CHAMPION/EZ-TRANS/2009-2011
CHAMPION/IC HIGH FLOOR/2010-2011
CHAMPION/IC LOW FLOOR/2010

Mfr's Report Date: September 12, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-422

Components:

EQUIPMENT:ELECTRICAL

Potential Number of Units Affected: 598

Problem Description:

Champion Bus is recalling certain model year 2010 American Crusader, American Coach, CTS-FE, CTS-RE, and IC Low Floor buses; and 2009-2010 Challenger and Crusader buses; and 2009-2011 Defender and EZ Trans buses; and 2010-2011 IC High Floor buses. The buses are manufactured from August 1, 2009, through May 19, 2011, and equipped with A&M Systems door headers containing model 3230 circuit boards. Voltage spikes may damage electrical components and electrical circuits, causing the circuit board to develop high resistance.

Consequence:

High resistance may cause the board to overheat, increasing the risk of a fire.

Remedy:

Champion Bus will notify owners, and dealers will inspect the door header and replace any defective circuit board, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Champion at 1-810-724-6474.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is expected owners will be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

We have been informed that A&M Systems will be handling the quarterly reporting for this campaign. Please be reminded that as the vehicle manufacturer, Champion Bus is ultimately responsible for conducting an adequate safety recall campaign of its vehicles. Accordingly, if this safety recall campaign is not successful, the agency may require Champion Bus to conduct a follow-up notification and conduct additional quarterly reporting.

On August 20, 2013, NHTSA announced new changes to the requirements governing safety recalls. Some of these requirements take effect as early as October 2013. Please ensure your company will be in compliance with each requirement on, or before, its respective effective date. For a summary of the requirements and their effective dates please click on the "New!" link at <http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Manufacturers>.

Your contact for this recall will be Joshua Neff who may be reached by phone at 202-366-0698, or by email at joshua.neff@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement