

**Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹**

On or about June 25, 2013, Ameritrans Bus, Inc., a final stage assembler, was informed of a recall campaign filed by Ricon and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: July 1, 2013

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this campaign (if applicable):

Ameritrans Bus, Inc.: Identification code to be determined

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being investigated. If the vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Manufacturer:

Ameritrans Bus, Inc.

2503 Ada Drive

Elkhart, IN 46514

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this investigation.

Mr. Barry Hines, General Manager.

Telephone Number: 574-262-8935, x50511 **Fax No.:** 574-266-0642

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Mr. Barry Hines, General Manager

Signed: 

07/03/2013

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Investigation

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Investigation, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Ameritrans **Model Years Involved:** 2012 – 2013 **Model(s):** M2-Series

Production Dates: Beginning: 08/01/2012 **Ending:** 06/25/2013

VIN Range: TBD

Vehicle Type: M2 Series Coaches **Bodystyle:** Motorcoach and Shuttle Bus

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the investigated vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the investigation:

According to Ameritrans production records of specific Ricon wheelchair lifts as identified in the Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report installed in Ameritrans motorcoaches.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the investigated models distributed by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the investigated model population represents. For example, if the investigation involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the investigated Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

See Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report and as follows.

II. Identify the Investigation Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles investigated potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Number of Vehicles:

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Potentially Involved</u>
M2-Series	2012 - 2013	1

Total Number Potentially Affected by the investigation: 1 vehicle (see below regarding lifts in Ameritrans inventory not yet installed on vehicles)

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

100% based upon the information provided to NHTSA by Ricon.

Identify and describe how the investigation population was determined--in particular how the investigated models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the investigation vehicles:

Based upon information provided by Ricon to NHTSA, the investigation population includes vehicles equipped with a "S" or "K" Series Ricon lift with any of fourteen (14) model numbers ending in either "B" or "3". Ameritrans Bus, Inc. began operations on August 1, 2012, so any vehicle produced after that date equipped with a Ricon lift as described above is included in the investigation population. Pursuant to a search of records Ameritrans has used 1 affected lift in its vehicle production. Ameritrans has taken a physical inventory of Ricon lifts and located 3 additional lifts purchased from Ricon, 2 of which are Ricon series lifts not affected by this recall (i.e. RiK5510-F1020100A & Clearview) and 1 R152010-F1020100B series which is part of the Ricon recall.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

As described in the Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report, the affected lifts are equipped with a hand held pendant control whereupon 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 the possibility of fire.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

As described in the Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report, failure to install the pendant cable such that it is kept clear of the wheelchair lift base combined with an improperly installed or omitted protective elastomeric boot.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.
As described in the Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report, if a short circuit occurs and is not removed within a few seconds, a vehicle fire may result in placing vehicle occupants at risk.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.
As described in the Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report, sparks at the base of the lift power pack, rapid heating of the armored pendant cable, wisps of smoke, and a strong smell of burnt plastic.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Ricon Corporation

A Wabtec Company

7900 Nelson Road

Panorama City, CA 91402

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Stanton D. Saucier, PE, Vice President – Marketing and Product Planning

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the campaign is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

Ameritrans received communication from NHTSA dated June 14, 2013 and forwarded via email on June 25, 2013. Ameritrans has not received any reports of accident, injuries, or warranty claims.

7. Not applicable

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the campaign condition and the remedy.

As described in the Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report, Ricon will issue instructions for managing the pendant cord and will supply a supplemental cover kit at no charge. It will be the responsibility of the lift owners to install the cover kit.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the investigated component/assembly.

As described in the Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report, the lifts power cord will have a new non-conducting cover.

Identify and describe how and when the investigation condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

All Ricon lifts in inventory scheduled to be installed on Ameritrans vehicles will be inspected for the investigation condition and remedied according to Ricon Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report.

VI. Identify the Investigation Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the investigation.

VII. Furnish Investigation Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this investigation from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

Customer Notice, see attached.