



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

June 26, 2014

Mr. Mike Clark  
Champion Bus, Inc.  
331 Graham Road  
Imlay City, MI 48444

NVS-215MR  
14V-257

**Subject:** Wheelchair Lift Armored Pendant Cable Shortcircuit

Dear Mr. Clark:

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/CHALLENGER/2013

**Mfr's Report Date:** April 30, 2014

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 14V-257

**Components:**

EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 29

**Problem Description:**

Champion Bus, Inc. (Champion) is recalling certain model year 2013 Challenger transit buses manufactured January 7, 2013, through October 25, 2013, and equipped with certain Ricon S series and K series wheelchair lifts and an optional armored pendant cable. The armored cable may be positioned such that it does not clear the wheelchair lift.

**Consequence:**

If the cable does not clear the wheel chair lift it may contact the power lug and if it does not have a nonconductive cover, or it has an improperly installed non-conductive cover, then a short circuit may occur that could result in a fire.

**Remedy:**

Champion will notify owners and Ricon will send the owner a supplemental cover kit and instructions free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Champion customer service at 1-800-776-4943, or Ricon at 1-818-267-3000. Champion's number for this recall is 14E-010.

**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](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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).

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 required that owners 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.

We understand that Ricon will be handling the quarterly reporting for this campaign. Please be reminded that as the vehicle manufacturer Champion 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 to conduct a follow-up notification and conduct additional quarterly reporting.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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