



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 10, 2014

Von Lindsey  
Champion Bus, Inc.  
331 Graham Road  
Imlay City, MI 48444

NVS-215KS  
14V-742

**Subject:** Wheelchair Lift - Platform Cracking

Dear Von Lindsey:

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/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/AMERICAN CRUSADER/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/CORPORAL/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/CTS-FE/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/CTS-RE/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/HC AMERICAN/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/HCAC/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/PLATINUM SHUTTLE/2006-2014  
CHAMPION/STACKED RAIL/2006-2014

**Mfr's Report Date:** November 18, 2014

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 14V-742

**Components:**

EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,229

**Problem Description:**

Champion Bus, Inc. (Champion Bus) is recalling certain model year 2006-2014 American Coach, American Crusader, Challenger, Corporal, Crusader, CTS-FE, CTS-RE, Defender, HCAC, HC American, Platinum Shuttle, and Stacked Rail transit buses manufactured January 1, 2006, to July 31, 2014, equipped with certain model S2005, S2010, S5005, S5010, S5505, and S5510 wheelchair lifts manufactured by Ricon Corporation. The platform side plate of the affected wheelchair lifts may crack.

**Consequence:**

If the platform side plates crack, the lift platform can separate from the lift and come to rest against the vehicle's lift door. When the doors are opened, the platform may fall out, increasing the risk of injury to the lift operator.

**Remedy:**

Champion Bus will notify owners to take buses to a Ricon dealer or service center who will install supplemental platform support bumpers. Any platform that has already started cracking will be replaced, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin during December 2014. Owners may contact Champion Bus customer service at 1-810-724-6474. Owners may contact Ricon customer service at 1-800-322-2884.

**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).

We have received Champion Bus' proposed owner notification letter and edits have been sent.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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).

As required in Part 573.6(c)(6), in the case of a defect, please provide a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information, with their dates of receipt. Please provide this information as soon as possible.

We understand that Ricon 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.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at [kelly.schuler@dot.gov](mailto:kelly.schuler@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,



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