# Part 573 Safety Recall Report 16E-037

**Manufacturer Name :** Freedman Seating Company
**Submission Date :** MAY 10, 2017
**NHTSA Recall No. :** 16E-037
**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR

**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Freedman Seating Company
Address : 4545 West Augusta BLVD
Chicago IL 60651
Company phone : 8004434540

**Population :**

Number of potentially involved : 813
Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

**Equipment Information :**

Brand / Trade 1 : Freedman
Model : Family Seat
Part No. : 36360
Size : 17-1/2" wide
Function : vehicle seating
Descriptive Information : Passenger seat for multifunction school activity bus.
Production Dates : JAN 15, 2016 - JAN 29, 2016

Brand / Trade 2 : Freedman
Model : ICS
Part No. : 50500
Size : 17-1/2"
Function : vehicle seating
Descriptive Information : Passenger Seat with Integrated Child Seat for buses.
Production Dates : JAN 15, 2016 - JAN 29, 2016

Brand / Trade 3 : Freedman
Model : Family 3pta
Part No. : 28968, 28988
Size : 17-1/2"
Function : vehicle seating
Descriptive Information : Passenger seating for multifunction school activity buses.
Production Dates : JAN 15, 2016 - JAN 29, 2016

**Description of Defect :**

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| Description of the Defect : | Freedman Seating performed FMVSS 222 forward performance test on Family and Family 3pta Seats containing the subject nonconforming hex head cap screws. The tests were noncompliant as the seat studs (3/8" – 24 x 1" hex head cap screw, grade 8, part #454922) fractured during the tests causing the seat to separate from the baseframe. |
| FMVSS 1 : | 222 - School bus passenger seating and crash protection |
| FMVSS 2 : | 213 - Child restraint systems |
| Description of the Safety Risk : | Seat may separate from baseframe during a vehicle crash. |
| Description of the Cause : | The hex head cap screws, 3/8" – 24 x 1", grade 8 were improperly manufactured by S&S INTERNATIONAL, INC. resulting in a material flaw that can reduce the strength of the screw. |
| Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : | Seat studs may fracture during normal use. We have not been able to duplicate this through fatigue testing. |

**Supplier Identification :**

**Component Manufacturer**

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|---|---|
| Name : | S&S International |
| Address : | 28005 W. COMMERCIAL AVE<br>LAKE BARRINGTON ILLINOIS 60010 |
| Country : | United States |

**Chronology :**

lFSC received screws from S&S on 1/15/16. Nine boxes of these were delivered to the welding department between 3 and 4 pm on 1/15/16. FSC began using these in production of Family, Family 3pta and ICS Seats sometime afterwards. During seat assembly, a limited number of the subject screws began to fracture and a Nonconforming Material Report was generated. We removed and quarantined the subject screws from the production floor. On or about 1/2/16, Freedman had a discussion with a metallurgical consultant of S&S, who had analyzed the subject screw. The consultant advised FSC that, if the screw did not fracture during seat assembly (during which a torque of 13 ft-lbs was applied), then the screw would be fine for its intended use. Accordingly, FSC was assured there was no issue with the screws that had not fractured during installation. On 2/5/16, FSC received a complaint from a customer about a screw fracturing during seat assembly. FSC requested samples of the subject nonconforming screws from S&S International for its own analysis. Upon receiving samples of the screws, FSC conducted seat fatigue testing, which the screws passed. FSC then conducted testing of its seats with the subject nonconforming screws to FMVSS 222 and discovered that the seats which included the subject screws failed. FSC's FMVSS 222 testing concluded on 3/18/16, at which point FSC concluded that the Family Seat and the Family 3pta Seat that were manufactured with the subject defective screws do not meet FMVSS 222 and present a defect relating to safety. FSC also concluded that the ICS Seats may present a defect relating to safety as they may not be compliant to FMVSS 213 given the dynamic nature of this test. A Part 573 Defect & Noncompliance Report was originally submitted to RMD.ODI@dot.gov on 3/25/16 not realizing this was an outdated process. Received email back from RMD.ODI@dot.gov on 4/18/16 informing us of this. Report was re-filed using instructions received the next day.

**Description of Remedy :**

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| Description of Remedy Program : | Freedman Seating will notify its customers (bus manufacturers) who have received Family, Family 3pta and ICS Seats that were shipped between 1/15/2016 after 4 pm and 1/29/2016. Non-compliant seats will be replaced with new seats. |
| How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : | The remedy seat assembly will utilize seats studs that comply with Freedman's specifications to meet FMVSS 222 and FMVSS 213 requirements. |
| Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : | On January 20, 2016 Freedman issued a Nonconforming Material Report to S & S International, removed the subject screws from the production floor and quarantined the subject screws. On January 22, 2016 Freedman received a replacement shipment of conforming hex head cap screws from S&S International. Freedman conducted torque testing and FMVSS 222 testing on seats using these hex head cap screws with compliant results. |

**Recall Schedule :**

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| Description of Recall Schedule : | Notification letters were sent out on April 15, 2016. Replacement seats are being made and will be shipping out to manufacturers starting April 22, 2016. |
| Planned Dealer Notification Date : | APR 21, 2016 - APR 21, 2016 |
| Planned Owner Notification Date : | APR 21, 2016 - APR 21, 2016 |

**Purchaser Information :**

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

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|---|---|
| Name : | Bluebird Bus Co |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 4783203453 |

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|---|---|
| Name : | Champion Bus |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 8107241753 |

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| Name : | Coach & Equipment |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 3152791209 |

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| Name : | Collins Bus |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 8005331850 |

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| Name : | Creative Bus Sales |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 6024370303 |

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| Name : | Turtle Top |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 8002962105 |

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| Name : | Elkhart Coach |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 5742645179 |

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| Name : | Glaval Bus |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 8004452825 |

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| Name : | IC Corp |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 9188334027 |

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|---|---|
| Name : | Leeds Transit |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 6133595344 |

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| Name : | Starcraft Bus |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 5746423112 |

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| Name : | Eldorado National |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | US |
| Company Phone : | 7858271033 |

* NR - Not Reported