

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

16V-328

Manufacturer Name : Ameritrans Bus, Inc.

Submission Date : JUN 27, 2016

NHTSA Recall No. : 16V-328

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Ameritrans Bus, Inc.

Address : 3601 C.R. 6

Elkhart IN 46514

Company phone : 2184786

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 225

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2012-2016 Ford E450 285

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Vehicles having a 26 "all passenger" plus driver, plus co-pilot, and no rear luggage configuration.

Vehicles having a 23 passenger, plus driver, co-pilot, and rear luggage configuration.

Production Dates : AUG 01, 2012 - MAY 13, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1FDXE4FS0dDA30173 **End :** 1FDXE4FS0GDC38784 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Non compliance of the Vehicle Certification Label, as per 49CFR, 567.5 labeling.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the vehicle has a full passenger load, a full fuel load, and a fully loaded cargo compartment, (if equipped), the bus could possibly be over the GVWR and/or the rear axle GAWR ratings as indicated on the certification label affixed to the vehicle.

Description of the Cause : The Noncompliance condition was caused by inaccurate weight scales in the vehicle final stage manufacturing areas. This resulted in a miscalculation of the vehicle's NHTSA approved "passenger weight calculation formula" used during the production of the subject vehicles. These inaccurate weight scale readings resulted in the vehicle's empty weight figures to be either understated or overstated which were then used in the base line calculation formula. Additionally, weight variations in chassis produced by the chassis manufacturer and calculations for fuel tank capacities were not properly taken into consideration.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : No warnings would be available to the driver.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Ameritrans Bus Inc.
Address : 3601 C. R. 6 East
Elkhart INDIANA 46514
Country : United States

Chronology :

This issue was found while conducting an in-house quality control audit. During recertification using in-house scales, weight measurements were then taken at a public scale where it was determined that there were inaccuracies in the "in-house" scale equipment as well as the calculation procedures. This provided inaccurate weight and passenger calculations set forth by Title 49 C.F.R Part 567.5, and the chassis manufacturer GVWR/ GAWR ratings. As far as we know, there have been no reported crashes, accidents, injuries or warranty claims regarding this issue, it was strictly found during "in-house" audits. As part of the process for creating instructions for this campaign for mailing upon approval of the customer letter by NHTSA Ameritrans Bus, Inc. discovered that the Tire & Loading placards (FMVSS 110) affixed to the vehicles produced by Ameritrans Bus, Inc. are not applicable for the vehicles weighing more than 10,000 lbs. pursuant to 49 CRF Part 571.110 and should be removed from vehicles to prevent any possible confusion.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : A detailed analysis of internal weight spreadsheets and data was conducted in order to define an average empty weight measurement. This measurement was then used to define corrective field action. Affected bus model weights, passenger capacities, and cargo capacities, (if equipped) were recalculated by using the newly established empty weight. The affected chassis' specification is the same throughout the model years and bus options are similar throughout the model years. Ameritrans is confident that the field remedy is appropriate for all affected units.

The field remedy is to remove necessary seating positions, and on specific configurations, reposition the remaining seats forward approximately 3 inches each to adjust the rear axle weight, and restate approved cargo loads on affected vehicles. Additionally, a new Loading Decal describing the "Maximum Allowable Cargo Capacity" will be affixed, in a visible

manner, in the rear luggage compartment where cargo is stored. The Tire & Load placard shall be removed as it is not required for vehicles more than 10,000 lbs.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :

N/A

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :

To remedy this situation, a public scale will be used to verify completed, empty vehicle weights until accurate baseline weight can be established. In addition, modified safeguards are in place to manage potential weight issues before vehicles are delivered. In addition, changes to passenger counts or bus options will be considered prior to vehicle construction in order to maintain proper GVWR/GAWR chassis ratings.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Ameritrans is preparing its customer lists and procedures, and will advise NHTSA as soon as plans are finalized.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JUN 06, 2016 - JUN 06, 2016

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUN 24, 2016 - JUN 24, 2016

* NR - Not Reported