



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

August 9, 2018

Mr. James Anderson  
President  
Van-Con, Inc.  
123 William Street  
Middlesex, NJ 08846

NEF-150MR  
18V-472

**Subject:** Knee Impact Area Foam Insufficient/FMVSS 222

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This letter serves to acknowledge Van-Con, 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:**

VAN-CON/33803 DUAL REAR-WHEEL/2011-2018

**Mfr's Report Date:** July 20, 2018

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 18V-472

**Components:**

SEATS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,376

**Problem Description:**

Van-Con, Inc. (Van-Con) is recalling certain 2011-2018 33803 Dual Rear Wheel school buses, equipped with CE White/HSM SB11-30" series, standard, unbelted, school bus seats, or SB11-30" series school bus seats with lap belts only. The foam in the knee impact area of the lower seat back may not absorb enough impact in the event of a crash. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 222, "School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection."

**Consequence:**

If the seat foam does not absorb enough impact energy, it can increase the risk of injury in the event of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Van-Con is still finalizing a remedy plan. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Van-Con customer service at 1-732-356-8484.

**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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

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 or through the office email at 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 the first name being the most prominent.

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