



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 7, 2012

MR. ERIC STONE  
LAW OFFICE OF ERIC STONE, LLC  
14524 KINGS GRANT STREET  
NORTH POTOMAC, MD 20878

NVS-215kjs  
12E-017

Subject: BUS ROOF ESCAPE HATCH/FMVSS 217

Dear MR. STONE:

This letter serves to acknowledge your notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on behalf of your client, Specialty Manufacturing, Inc. (SMI), of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the equipment 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:**  
SMI/PROLO/9999

**Mfg's Report Date:** April 18, 2012

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 12E-017

**Components:** STRUCTURE:BODY:ROOF AND PILLARS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 15,462

**Summary:**

SPECIALTY MANUFACTURING, INC. (SMI) IS RECALLING CERTAIN PROLO BUS ROOF ESCAPE HATCHES INSTALLED AS ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT ON VARIOUS SCHOOL AND TRANSIT BUSES, SHIPPED FROM APRIL 1, 2011, THROUGH MARCH 25, 2012. THESE HATCHES MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN USED AS SERVICE REPLACEMENT PARTS. INCREASED FRICTION BETWEEN THE REAR PLATE ASSEMBLIES, P/NO. 009327, AND THE NYLON REAR POP-UP SUPPORT, P/NO. 008956, MAY RESULT IN AN OPENING FORCE OF THE PROLO ROOF HATCHES THAT EXCEEDS FEDERAL STANDARD REQUIREMENTS. THUS, THESE HATCHES FAIL TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 217, "BUS EMERGENCY EXITS AND WINDOW RETENTION AND RELEASE."

**Consequence:**

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, A NONCOMPLIANT HATCH MAY NOT PROVIDE A MEANS OF READILY ACCESSIBLE EGRESS, INCREASING THE RISK OF INJURY TO THE VEHICLE OCCUPANTS.

**Remedy:**

SMI IS WORKING WITH THE BUS MANUFACTURERS TO IDENTIFY AND NOTIFY THE OWNERS OF THE RECALL CAMPAIGN. THE BUSES WILL BE REPAIRED FREE OF CHARGE. IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF YOUR HATCH AFFECTED, PLEASE REVIEW THE LIST OF PROLO MODEL AND PART NUMBER PROVIDED TO US BY SMI BY CLICKING ON THE HYPERLINK "AFFECTED MODEL LIST." THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED THE AGENCY WITH A NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT SMI AT 1-800-951-7867 OR THEIR VEHICLE MANUFACTURER.

**Notes:**

OWNERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://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 provide the following additional information:

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 expected owners will 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. 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.

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).

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, 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 for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

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

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