



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 4, 2012

MS. JULIANNA SAUBER
ARBOC SPECIALTY VEHICLES, LLC
51165 GREENFIELD PARKWAY
MIDDLEBURY, IN 46540

NVS-215kjs
12V-248

SUBJECT: ROOF ESCAPE HATCHES/FMVSS 217

DEAR MS. SAUBER:

This letter serves to acknowledge ARBOC Specialty Vehicles, LLC's (ARBOC) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217, "Bus Emergency Exits and Window Retention and Release," for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles 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:

ARBOC/FREEDOM/2011-2012
ARBOC/SPIRIT OF MOBILITY/2011-2012

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-248

Mfg's Report Date: May 30, 2012

Components: STRUCTURE:BODY:ROOF AND PILLARS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 57

Summary:

ARBOC SPECIALTY VEHICLES, LLC (ARBOC) IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2011 AND 2012 SPIRIT OF MOBILITY AND FREEDOM TRANSIT BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM APRIL 1, 2011, THROUGH MARCH 25, 2012, EQUIPPED WITH PROLO ROOF ESCAPE HATCHES. 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, THE VEHICLE OCCUPANTS MAY BE UNABLE TO OPEN THE ROOF HATCH, WHICH WOULD HINDER EGRESS OF THE BUS, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN INJURY TO THE VEHICLE OCCUPANTS.

Remedy:

ARBOC WILL NOTIFY OWNERS. SPECIALTY MANUFACTURING, INC. WILL PROVIDE SERVICE KITS ALONG WITH REPAIR INSTRUCTIONS TO DEALERS AND OWNERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED THE AGENCY WITH A NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT ARBOC AT 1-574-825-1720.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY 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 a vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Please provide the following additional information:

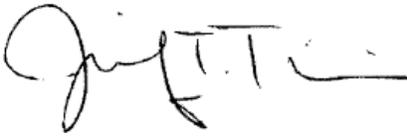
You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is expected owners will be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a 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. 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 Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for the 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 long horizontal stroke at the end.

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