



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 23, 2009

JOE LABONTE
PRODUCT SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER
DAIMLER BUSES NORTH AMERICA INC.
350 HAZELHURST ROAD
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, CANADA 00 L5J 4T8

NVS-215dgl
09V-412

SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR LIFTS/LIFT-U

DEAR MR. LABONTE:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Buses North America Inc's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect in the vehicles listed below for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

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:

ORION/V/2000-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-412 **Mfg's Report Date:** October 9, 2009

Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 983

Summary:

DAIMLER BUSES IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2000 THROUGH 2008 ORION TRANSIT BUSES EQUIPPED WITH LIFT-U WHEELCHAIR LIFTS. THE LIFTS ARE EQUIPPED WITH A LOGIC BOARD ASSEMBLY FOR THE WHEELCHAIR LIFT CONTROL BOX, P/NOS. 373-0226 AND 373-0265. THE OUTBOARD RAMP BARRIER COULD FOLD IN TOWARD A LIFT PASSENGER AND PINCH, PRESS, OR CRUSH THE PASSENGER'S FEET.

Consequence:

THE LIFT PASSENGER COULD BE SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Remedy:

ORION WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND THE REPAIRS WILL BE MADE BY LIFT-U FREE OF CHARGE. PLEASE SEE LIFT-U'S DEFECT REPORT 09E-051. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED AN OWNER NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT LIFT-U AT 1-209-838-2400 OR ORION AT 1-800-716-7466.

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).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

Notification to owners as required by 49 CFR Part 577 must be sent by the vehicle manufacturer(s). Therefore, 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).

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.

As stated in your report, Lift-U will be handling the remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Lift-U's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification or take other measures to assist in the success of the recall campaign as to the affected Daimler Buses vehicles.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. H. Person" with a stylized flourish at the end.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement