

# American Transportation Corporation

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December 12, 2000

Jonathan D. White, Chief  
Recall Analysis Division  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED  
09 DEC 14 PM 3:44  
OFFICE INVESTIGATION  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Subject: AmTran RECALL #00304; NHTSA #00V-390

Mr. White

Enclosed are copies of the customer recall notice and the dealer letter. These communications pertaining to the subject recall are being submitted to you within 5 days of issuance as described under 49 CFR Part 573.5 (c) (9).

The dealer letter was issued December 13, 2000.

The customer letter was issued December 8, 2000.

If you have any questions please contact me at (501) 505-2190.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Douglas  
Director of Product Integrity

Enclosed  
Customer and Dealer Letters

# American Transportation Corporation

## RECALL NOTICE

December 2000

AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION RECALL #00-304  
NHTSA # 00V-390

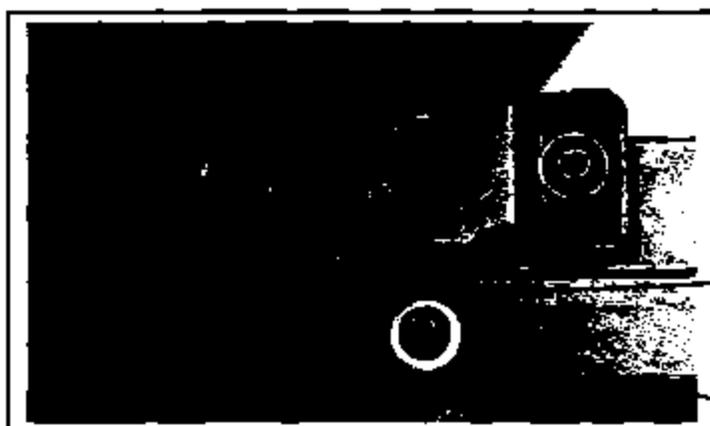
Dear American Transportation Bus Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. American Transportation Corporation has determined that the rear emergency exit window with Vandal Lock on certain AmTran RE™ buses fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 217. The vehicles involved were built from July 31, 2000 through November 1, 2000.

The vehicle identified on the enclosed card fits this description and our records show you as the owner of this vehicle.

### DEFECT DESCRIPTION

Certain rear emergency exit windows supplied with a Vandal Lock system allow the locking mechanism to be partially released. In the partial release position, the lock does not provide electrical contact, and the engine may then be started while the rear emergency exit window is still improperly locked.



Locking Lever

Electrical Contact

LEVER MOVED FROM ELECTRICAL CONTACT AND  
WINDOW REMAINING IN THE LOCK POSITION

**If the window remains locked during an emergency situation, it could prevent evacuation of the passengers causing personal injury or death.**

### **ACTIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE**

If your bus contains this rear emergency exit window with the Vandal Lock as shown in the previous photo, you should inform all drivers to be aware of this potential problem. If the bar is turned to the full release position the window will open as required. American Transportation suggests that until your bus has been repaired, the operator should open the rear emergency window each time the Vandal Lock is released to make sure that the window is not latched.

You may perform the repair or make arrangements to have a dealer perform the repair on a mutually agreed date. American Transportation estimates that its American Transportation dealers will have instructions to remedy this defect by December 12, 2000. You should contact your dealer to make arrangements for remedy of the defect at no cost to you.

We have included repair kits and instructions with this recall notification letter. If you prefer a dealer to make this repair, please make arrangements with your dealer.

Please return the "AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE" card to American Transportation after completing the repair of this defect. Check box #2 "Corrections Made". If you are not in possession of this unit, please check either box #4 or #5 and return to American Transportation. If you have sold this vehicle, please provide us with the name and address of the present owner.

### **REPAIR PROCEDURE**

The repair procedure will involve removing the current screw and washer electrical contact and replacing it with a steel bar.



**New steel bar electrical contact replacing screw and washer**

**Rear Window With Bar Replacing Screw and Washer.**

### **IF YOU NEED HELP**

If the dealer does not remedy this condition without charge on the mutually agreed date or within five days, you can obtain assistance by calling American Transportation customer service at the toll free number listed below. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration if you believe that American Transportation Corporation or its dealer has failed to remedy the vehicle without charge, within a reasonable time, which is no longer than 60 days after you first tender to obtain repair. Submit your complaints to 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

If you have questions concerning this notification, please contact an authorized American Transportation dealer or our Compliance Department at 1-800-843-5815. You may locate your nearest dealer by calling 1-800-882-7761 or you may call our Compliance Department.

We request your prompt attention in the correction of this defect and apologize for any inconvenience it may cause you.

#### **IMPORTANT**

In the event you no longer own the vehicle described, please fill in the requested information on the enclosed postage-prepaid card and return it to us. This information will allow us to notify the correct owner.