American Transportation Corporation
P.O. Box 8000 Conway, AR 72033
501-505-2190 FAX 501-505-2165 e-mail bob.douglas@nsv-international.com

December 12, 2000

RECEIVED
00 DEC 14 PM 3:45
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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

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

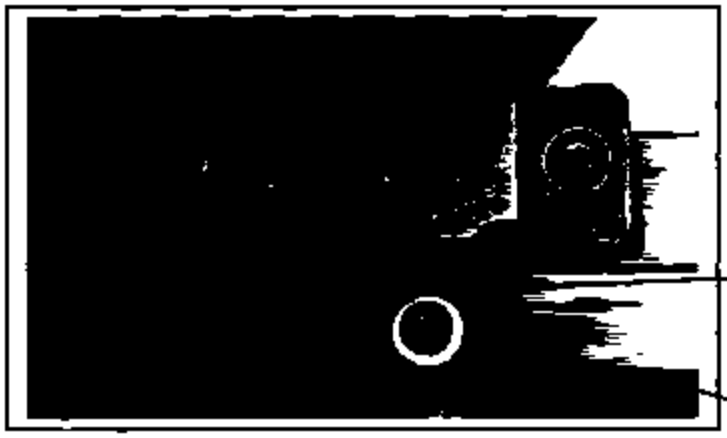
Dear American Transportation Bus Customer:

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 allows 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.



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.

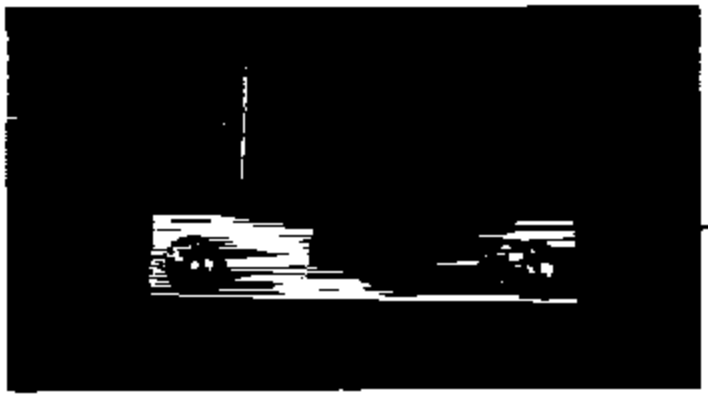
You may perform the repair or make arrangements to have a dealer perform the repair on a mutually agreed date. American Transportation estimates that its American Transportation dealers will have instructions to remedy this defect by December 12, 2000. You should contact your dealer to make arrangements 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 1-800-843-5615. You may locate your nearest dealer by calling 1-800-892-7761 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.

VEHICLE RECALL

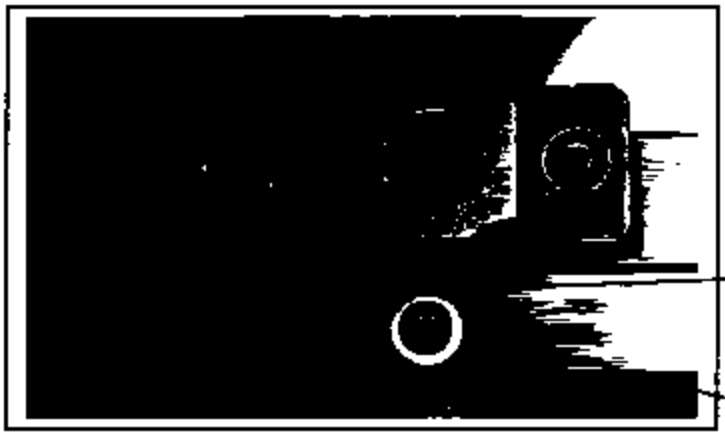
AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION RECALL #00-304 **December 2000**
NHTSA # 00V-390

All American Transportation Dealers

SUBJECT: VEHICLE RECALL
Rear Emergency Window with Vandal Lock

DEFECT DESCRIPTION

On some AmTran RE™ school buses, the rear emergency exit window with Vandal Lock fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 217. These rear emergency exit windows supplied with a Vandal Lock system allows 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. **If the window remains locked during an emergency situation, it could prevent evacuation of the passengers causing personal injury or death.**



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

VEHICLES INVOLVED

The vehicles involved are the AmTran RE™ buses built from July 31, 2000 through November 1, 2000.

INSPECTION

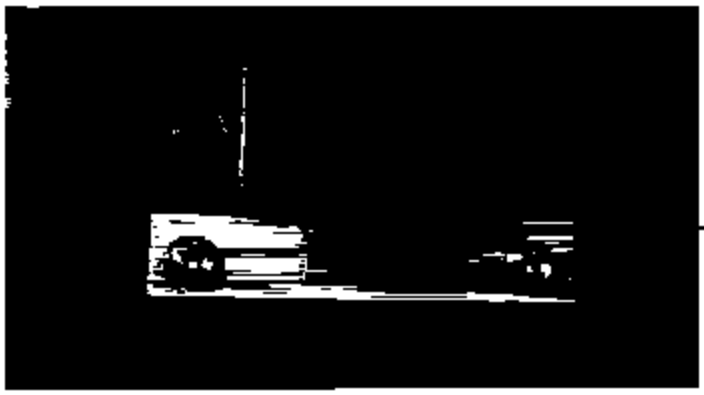
The customer notification letter required no inspection.

Repair kits were included with the recall notification letter to the customer. The notification letter gave the customer the choice to make the repairs themselves or contact their dealer to make the repairs.

The customer was told that American Transportation estimates that its dealers will have instructions to remedy this defect by December 12, 2000.

REPAIR PROCEDURE

The repair procedure will involve removing the current screw and washer electrical contact and replacing it with a steel bar. Complete instructions on the repair procedure are included with the repair kit.



New steel bar electrical contact replacing screw and washer

Rear Window With Bar Replacing Screw and Washer.

PARTS

Part #	Description	Quantity
None	Kit Vandal Lock	1

LABOR INFORMATION TIME

Repair Time	. 5 hours
Documentation Time	. 2 hours

ADMINISTRATIVE/DEALER RESPONSIBILITIES (U.S. & POSSESSIONS)

Proceed immediately to make necessary corrections to units in inventory. All inventory vehicles subject to this recall campaign must be corrected prior to sale, transfer, or delivery. If vehicles have been sold or transferred and you are in receipt of Customer Notification

Letters and Authorization for Recall Service cards for those vehicles, the transfer location or the customer **must be notified from your dealer location.**

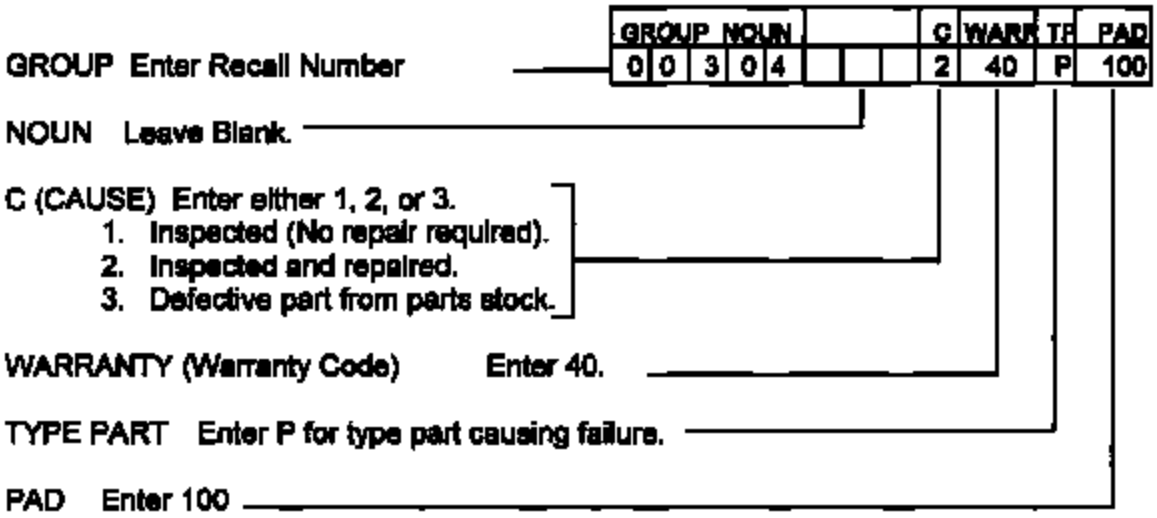
The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended, provides that each vehicle which is subject to a vehicle recall campaign must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the owner has tendered it for repair. A failure to adequately repair within 60 days after a tender of a vehicle is prima facie evidence of failure to repair within a reasonable time. If the condition is not adequately repaired within 60 days, the owner may be entitled to replacement with an identical or reasonable equivalent vehicle at no charge, or to a refund of the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for depreciation.

In order to avoid having to replace an owner's vehicle or refund the purchase price, every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each owner to repair his vehicle as soon as possible.

RECALL CLAIMS – American Transportation Dealers

Refer to the Dealer's Policy Manual for procedures to conduct Recall Campaigns.

It is important that the Recall Coding be completed properly to assist in processing the recall claim. Complete instructions will be found in the Dealer Policy Manual, Section 7-1. Special attention should be given to items 39 through 44.



We ask for your full cooperation and follow-up to this important subject matter. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the Regional Service Manager at your regional office.

ADMINISTRATIVE/DISTRIBUTOR RESPONSIBILITY (EXPORT)

None of the units involved were exported.

Reproduction: Not Required