

American Transportation Corporation

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Phone: (501) 505-2180 Fax: (501) 505-2185 e-mail: bob.douglas@nav-international.com

01V-241
(01V-241.002)

Mr. Jonathon White
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

November 19, 2001

Subject: **Revised** Safety Recall 01-302 (NHTSA RECALL NO. 01V-241)

Dear Sir:

On July 19, 2001 American Transportation Corporation declared that a safety defect exist in the motor vehicles listed on sheet two of this report, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Attached is a revised vehicle defect information report which is submitted pursuant to Parts 573.5, 151 (1), and 153 (1-6) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION



Robert L. Douglas
Director of Product Integrity

Enclosures

cc: Greg Hill
Bob Whitehouse
Richard Van Laar

NOV 20 11 53
OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

**AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION
CORPORATION**

**REVISED VEHICLE DEFECT
INFORMATION REPORT**

**NHTSA Recall No. 01V-241
American Transportation
Recall No. 01-302**

MAKE	MODELS	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURING DATES		OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
				FROM	THROUGH	
AmTran RE™	RS	1996	844	1/1/1995	5/31/1996	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	1996	17	1/1/1995	5/31/1996	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	1997	1207	6/1/1996	5/31/1997	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	1997	5	6/1/1996	5/31/1997	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	1998	1885	6/1/1997	5/31/1998	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	1998	21	6/1/1997	5/31/1998	Comercial Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	1999	461	6/1/1998	5/31/1999	School Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	1999	1	6/1/1998	5/31/1999	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	1999	2137	6/1/1998	5/31/1999	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	1999	48	6/1/1998	5/31/1999	Comercial Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	2000	1013	6/1/1999	5/31/2000	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	2000	2002	6/1/1999	5/31/2000	School Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	2001	1126	6/1/2000	5/31/2001	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	2001	1149	6/1/2000	5/31/2001	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	2001	27	6/1/2000	5/31/2001	Comercial Bus

Total Number of Vehicles: 11944
Percent Potentially Containing Defect Cannot Be Determined

AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION

American Transportation
RECALL NO 01-302

NHTSA
RECALL NO 01V-241

REVISED VEHICLE DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT: Some American Transportation FE and RE buses were built with a poor quality heater/defroster blower switch. The mechanical bond of the terminals of the switch were insufficient to carry the required current of the high speed operation over the expected life cycle and caused the switch terminals to build resistance causing excessive heat and melting the wiring connection at the switch. Also some of the older RE units had circuit protection size of 30 amperes instead of 20 amperes. Original investigation and report was in error. The high current draw from motor failures is not the cause of the switch over heating and is being removed from the recall. Since some of the buses had melting of the switch terminals and/or the connector and the switch harness high-speed wire insulation at the switch, this defect is being considered a **safety issue**.

CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS, WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT: January 23, 2001 our Customer Service Manager received notification from our Virginia dealer that he had three FE units with melted terminals and wire insulation at the heater switch. A few days later these units and ten additional units were inspected and temporary repairs were made by our electrical engineer and the supplier of the heater/defroster system. Since that visit extensive test with components of the system removed from customer units were performed to determine the root cause of the excessive current draw. July 18, 2001 test were complete and the time frame of defective motors was established. On July 19, 2001 our Compliance committee declared this a safety defect. The subject recall was issued to the customers and dealers early October 2001. On October 18, 2001 a customer notified us saying that he had melted connector at the switch on units with motors that were not defective. After additional testing and review of many used units it was determined that the switch not the motor was the root cause of the defect. On November 13, 2001 the compliance committee approved to revise the recall since the root cause of the defect had changed and the 30 ampere circuit protection in older RE units was in error.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REPAIR VEHICLE: All owners will be notified of the defect change. Instructions on how to obtain parts and the repair procedure will be included in the recall notice. The repair procedure for this defect will require replacing the switch and heater harness with a new switch, relay and switch harness.

REMEDY EXPENSE: American Transportation will reimburse owners for labor or provide free repair upon request. All repair kits will be provided to the customer at no charge.

EARLIEST DATE DEFECT TO BE REMEDIED: Current production is not affected by this defect. Kits with materials and instructions will be available by November 29, 2001.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: There will be no public announcement.

OWNER LETTER AND TECHNICAL LETTER: Start mailing of revised recall letter to the customers and dealers by December 15, 2001.

11/18/01



01V-241

American Transportation Corporation
751 S. Harkrider
Conway, AR 72032

November 28, 2001

Dear American Transportation Customer
and International/American Transportation Dealers.

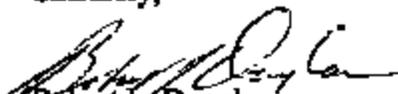
Subject: Kits Ordered for Recall 01302

We received your request for kits to repair your unit(s) to conform to our recall 01302 sent to you in October. The original recall stated that some of the units may have a motor that caused the melting of the switch connector. We have now determined, however, that this was not the cause of the problem. Instead, further investigation revealed that the switch for the defroster/heater is the cause of the melting switch connector. The mechanical bond of the terminals in some of the switches was insufficient to carry the required current of the high speed operation over the expected life cycle and caused the switch terminals to build resistance resulting in excessive heat and melting of the wiring connection at the switch. Because further investigation revealed the accurate cause of the melting of the switch connector, we are removing the replacement of the heater/defroster blower from the recall and replacing the switch and switch harness with a new switch and switch harness, and adding a relay in the high speed circuit to the heater/defroster blower.

This change in repair has caused our supplier to build new materials that were not in the original recall. We have notified NHTSA of this change and have told them that we will reissue the revised recall by mid-December with the changes described above. Because you already have kits on order per the original recall letter, we will ship the revised repair kits by mid-December to the requested shipping address. This recall is being retained as a safety recall, even though we are not aware of any fires caused from this defect.

If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact our Compliance Department at 1-800-843-5615 or contact me directly at 501-505-2190.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Douglas
Director of Product Integrity

American Transportation Corporation

P.O. Box 8000 Conway, AR 72033
Phone: (501) 505-2180 Fax (501) 505-2185 e-mail: bob.douglas@nav-international.com

Mr. Jonathon White
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

January 22, 2002

Subject: **Revised** Safety Recall 01-302 (NHTSA RECALL NO. 01V-241)

Dear Sir:

On July 18, 2001 American Transportation Corporation declared that a safety defect exist in the motor vehicles listed on sheet two of this report, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Attached is a **revised** vehicle defect information report which is submitted pursuant to Parts 573.5, 151 (1), and 153 (1-6) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The number of units involved in the recall has increased. The previous report included 11,944 units. We have added 957 units for a total of 12,901.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION



Robert L. Douglas
Director of Product Integrity

Enclosures

cc: Greg Hill
Bob Whitehouse
Richard Van Laar

Handwritten notes and signature on the right side of the page, including a vertical stamp that reads "RECEIVED" and a signature.

**AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION
CORPORATION**

**REVISED VEHICLE DEFECT
INFORMATION REPORT**

**NHTSA Recall No. 01V-241
American Transportation
Recall No. 01-302**

MAKE	MODELS	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURING DATES		OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
				FROM	THROUGH	
AmTran RE™	RS	1995	6	1/1/1995	5/31/1995	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	1996	1176	6/1/1995	5/31/1996	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	1996	10	1/1/1995	5/31/1996	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	1997	1209	6/1/1996	5/31/1997	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	1997	5	6/1/1996	5/31/1997	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	1998	1886	6/1/1997	5/31/1998	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	1998	21	6/1/1997	5/31/1998	Comercial Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	1999	444	6/1/1998	5/31/1999	School Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	1999	1	6/1/1998	5/31/1999	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	1999	2108	6/1/1998	5/31/1999	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	1999	38	6/1/1998	5/31/1999	Comercial Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	2000	1164	6/1/1999	5/31/2000	School Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	2000	4	6/1/1999	5/31/2000	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	2000	2445	6/1/1999	5/31/2000	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	2000	45	6/1/1999	5/31/2000	Comercial Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	2001	1131	6/1/2000	5/31/2001	School Bus
AmTran FE™	FE	2001	9	6/1/2000	5/31/2001	Comercial Bus
AmTran RE™	RS	2001	1162	6/1/2000	5/31/2001	School Bus
AmTran RE™	RC	2001	37	6/1/2000	5/31/2001	Comercial Bus

Total Number of Vehicles:

12901

Percent Potentially Containing Defect Is 100%

American Transportation Corporation

P.O. Box 6000 Conway, AR 72033
Phone: (501) 505-2190 Fax: (501) 505-2185 e-mail: bob.douglas@nav-international.com

01V-241

Subject: American Transportation Recall # 01302

You have returned to us the enclosed "AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE" card(s) that was sent to you with the subject Recall Notice. On this card(s) you checked box #1 (Inspected – No corrections necessary) and/or box # 2 (Corrections made).

It is possible that the unit you inspected is not having any problems at this time. In order to have the corrections made new parts are required. This recall changes the wiring to the high-speed operation of the defroster motor and will reduce the possibility of future failures. **We strongly suggest that you make this repair.**

Please return this card requesting a kit to make this repair. Check box #8 on the enclosed card and return it to us in the self-addressed envelope. Make sure that the shipping address is correct to receive the material. **P.O. Box numbers are not valid** for a shipping address. Also provide the name of the person to receive this material.

Make arrangements with your dealer if you prefer him to make this repair. If you would prefer to have the material shipped directly to your dealer please provide his shipping address for the material. Also provide the name of the person to receive this material.

All kits include complete instructions on how to make this repair. Due to the volume of kit request it may take over a month to receive the material.

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

Sincerely,

Robert L. Douglas
Director of Product Integrity