

# American Transportation Corporation

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

August 24, 2001

Subject: Safety Recall 01303 (NHTSA N/A) Ref PE 01-027

Dear Sir:

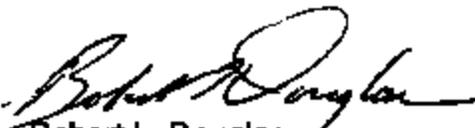
On August 20, 2001 American Transportation Corporation declared that a safety defect exist in the motor vehicles listed on sheet two of this report, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Attached is a 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: Sonny Murianka, NHTSA  
John Toole  
Bob Whitehouse  
Richard Van Laar

VEHICLE DEFECT  
INFORMATION REPORT

MAKE	MODELS	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURING DATES		OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
				FROM	THROUGH	
AmTran	FE	2000	28	8/18/99	5/31/00	With 39-inch flip
AmTran/International	FE	2001	54	6/1/00	5/31/01	With 39-inch flip
AmTran/International	FE	2002	7	6/1/01	7/25/01	With 39-inch flip
AmTran	RE	2000	1709	8/18/99	5/31/00	With 39-inch flip
AmTran/International	RE	2001	1118	6/1/00	5/31/01	With 39-inch flip
AmTran/International	RE	2002	136	6/1/01	7/25/01	With 39-inch flip
AmTran	CS	2000	275	8/18/99	5/31/00	With 39-inch flip
AmTran/International	CS	2001	87	6/1/00	5/31/01	With 39-inch flip
AmTran/International	CS	2002	0	6/1/01	7/25/01	With 39-inch flip
International	IC	2001	208	3/1/00	5/31/01	With 39-inch flip
International	IC	2002	72	6/1/01	7/25/01	With 39-inch flip

Total Number of Vehicles:

3694

Percent Potentially Containing Defect: less than 20%

## AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION

American Transportation  
RECALL NO 01303

NHTSA REF  
PE 01-027

## VEHICLE DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

**DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:** Some AmTran®/International® FE, RE, CS and IC buses are experiencing flip seats that could bind in the occupied position and not return to the stored position when not occupied. This condition is limited to buses built after August 18, 1999 with the 39-inch wide flip seat. The cushion frame support bar slides off of the seat support pad which could retain the seat in the occupied position. This condition is considered a **safety issue** since it could block the aisle to the emergency exit during an emergency, which may result in injury or death.

**CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS, WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT:**  
March 2001 our Customer Service Manager received a complaint from our dealer regarding this defect. Shortly after that complaint a letter was issued to the dealer by American Transportation stating that the addition of an additional crossmember in the flip seat cushion is acceptable. On July 9, 2001 our sales account manager received e-mail from the customer Tim Parker complaining to our dealer that he has a flip seat issue that is not being addressed. On the same date a copy of this e-mail was forwarded to our compliance department. On July 14, 2001 NHTSA contacted our compliance department to discuss the issue. On July 26, 2001 our engineers met with NHTSA at the customer sight to review the issue. From that visit until August 13, 2001 additional investigation was completed to understand the root cause of the defect and make sure that the field campaign repair would correct the defect. On August 21, 2001 our compliance committee declared this defect a safety recall.

**MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REPAIR VEHICLE:** All owners will be notified of the defect. Instructions on how to repair will be included in the recall notice. The repair procedure for this defect will require adding a "Z" shaped bracket to all units to extend the support pad contact surface.

**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:** Campaign material will be available by September 13, 2001

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE:** There will be no public announcement.

**OWNER LETTER AND TECHNICAL LETTER:** Start mailing of recall letter to the customers and dealers by September 17, 2001

08/23/01