

VEHICLE RECALL

AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION RECALL # 01303
NHTSA RECALL # 01V-269

October 2001

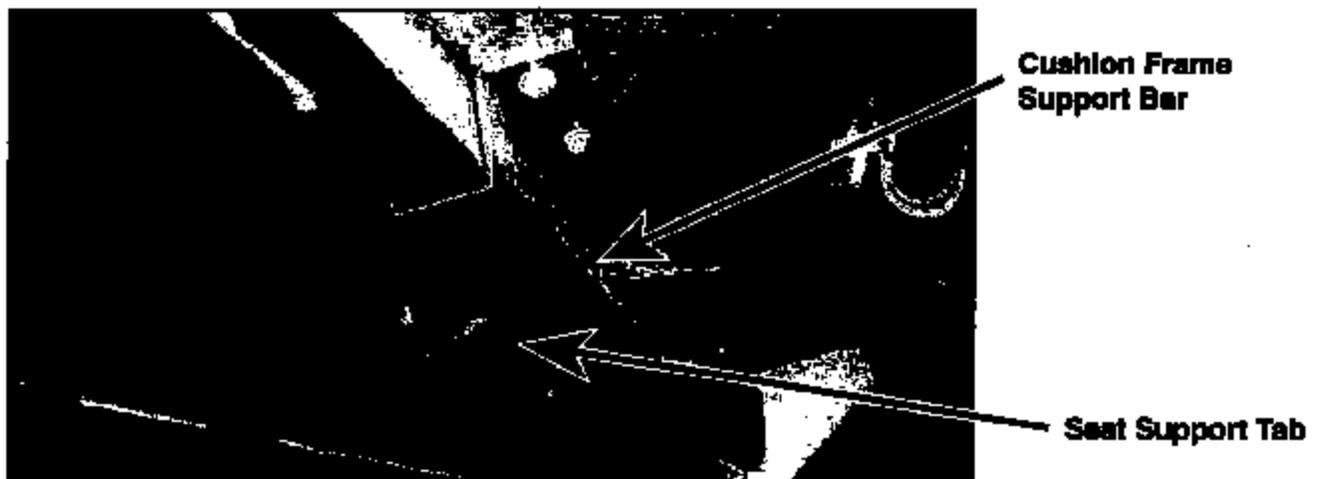
All American Transportation Dealers

SUBJECT: VEHICLE RECALL
Flip Seat Support Binding

DEFECT DESCRIPTION

American Transportation has mailed to the affected customers the following notice. 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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exist in certain AmTran[®] and International[®] RE[™], AmTran[®] and International[®] FE[™], AmTran[®] and International[®] Conventional Bus Body, and International[®] IC school buses. These buses have one or two 39-inch wide flip seat that may bind in the occupied position and not automatically return to the stored upright position when not occupied. This condition is considered a **safety issue** since it could block the aisle to the emergency exit during an emergency, which could result in injury or death.

The cushion frame support bar slides off the seat support pad. When this occurs, the tabs can wedge against the support bar, which may retain the seat in the occupied position.



Picture Showing Cushion Frame Support Bar Ready to Slip Off Seat Support Tab

INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 6000
Conway, AR 72033

(501) 327-7761

VEHICLES INVOLVED

The affected AmTran and International buses with 39-inch wide flip seats were built from August 18, 1999 through July 25, 2001.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

The customer was requested to inspect his bus for this defect and informed of the following. If the seat catches on the seat support pads when in the occupied position, lift up on the seat to return it to the upright position. If the bus must be used prior to repairing this defect, actions must be taken to prevent passengers from occupying this seat. Advise the operators of the subject buses of this defect.

All units built in the above time frame with 39-inch flip seats must have this recall repair performed.

REPAIR PROCEDURE

The owner was told that they might make this repair or contact their dealer to perform this repair.

The repair procedure involves adding a "Z" shaped bracket to the underside of the seat. The following steps must be followed to repair the defect. (**WARNING: PROPER EYE PROTECTION MUST BE WORN WHILE OPERATING POWER TOOLS.**)

- Remove the existing seat retaining clip.
- The "Z" shaped bracket must be attached to the "Cushion Frame Support Bar" and the bottom side of the seat. The short leg of the bracket must face the rear of the seat. The bracket must be centered width wise on the "Cushion Frame Support Bar". The front edge of the bracket should align with the front face of the "Cushion Frame Support Bar". Make sure that the bracket will contact both "Seat Support Tabs".
- Using the holes provided in the bracket as a location guide, use a # 18 (0.1770) drill bit to drill three holes in the "Cushion Frame Support Bar" and three holes in the seat cushion plywood base. (Caution Do not drill completely through the plywood.)
- Install the supplied screws in all six holes.
- Complete and return the self addressed "RECALL REPAIR REPLY CARD" included with the kit.



PICTURE SHOWING REPAIRED SEAT WITH "Z" BRACKET

LABOR:

Install bracket
Complete recall information

.1 hr per bracket
.2 hr.

PARTS:

<u>PART NUMBER</u>	<u>PART DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
452875001	Kit, Recall 01303	1 required per 39-inch flip seat

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

Proceed immediately to make the necessary corrections to the units in your 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.

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 – International 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.

GROUP	NOUN	C	WARR	TH	PAD
0	1 3 0 3	2	40	P	100

GROUP Enter Recall Number _____

NOUN Leave Blank. _____

C (CAUSE) Enter either 1, 2, or 3.
 1. Inspected (No repair required).
 2. Inspected and repaired.
 3. Defective part from parts stock.

WARRANTY (Warranty Code) Enter 40. _____

TYPE PART Enter P for type part causing failure. _____

PAD Enter 100 _____

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.

RECALL CLAIMS:

For Repairs and/or Inspections Performed By Customer or Dealers Other Than International

To assist in processing the recall, it is important that you provide an invoice with the following information to American Transportation Corporation, P.O. Box 6000, Conway, AR, 72033, Attn: Compliance Department.

Body Serial #: Vin #: Recall Campaign #: Facilities Repair Labor Rate:

ADMINISTRATIVE/DISTRIBUTOR RESPONSIBILITY (EXPORT)

Proceed immediately to make the necessary correction to the units in your 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 distributor location.

Export locations are to submit warranty claims in the usual manner making reference to Safety Recall 01303.

Reproduction: Not Required

American Transportation Corporation

RECALL NOTICE

AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION RECALL # 01303
NHTSA RECALL # 01V-269

October 2001

Dear American Transportation Bus Customer:
Issue: Flip Seat Support Binding

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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exist in certain AmTran® and International® RE™, AmTran® and International® FE™, AmTran® and International® Conventional Bus Body, and International® IC school buses. These buses have one or two 39-inch wide flip seats that may bind in the occupied position and not automatically return to the stored upright position when not occupied. This condition is considered a **safety issue** since it could block the aisle to the emergency exit during an emergency, which could result in injury or death.

The affected AmTran and International buses with 39-inch wide flip seats were built from August 18, 1999 through July 25, 2001. The vehicle identified on the enclosed card fits this description and our records show you as the owner of this vehicle.

DEFECT DESCRIPTION

The cushion frame support bar slides off the seat support pad. When this occurs, the tabs can wedge against the support bar, which may retain the seat in the occupied position.



Seat Support Tab

Cushion Frame Support Bar

Picture Showing Cushion Frame Support Bar Ready to Slip Off Seat Support Tab

ACTIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE

Inspect the identified bus for this defect. If the seat catches on the seat support pads when in the occupied position, lift up on the seat to return it to the upright position. If the bus must be used prior to repairing this defect, actions must be taken to prevent passengers from occupying this seat. Advise the operators of the subject buses of this defect.

All units built in the above time frame with 39-inch flip seats must have this recall repair performed. You may arrange with your dealer for repair on a mutually agreed upon date or make the repair your self.

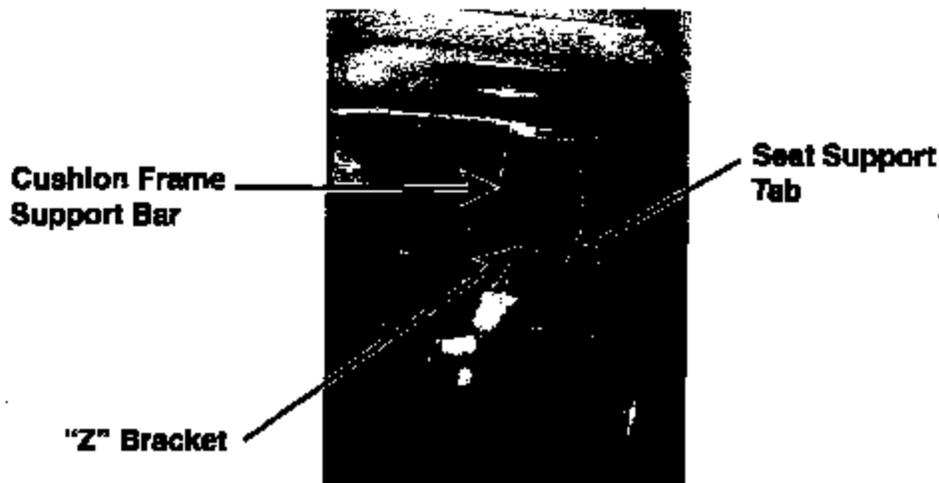
If you choose to make this repair, complete and return the enclosed self addressed and stamped "AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE" card with box number # 8 checked and note the number of 39-inch flip seats that this unit has. Please verify that your UPS shipping address is correct. When the card is returned to us with box number 8 checked and number of 39-inch flip seats that this unit has, we will forward to your attention a kit and instructions to make the repair. When the repair is completed, an invoice should be sent to collect for the labor (see Recall Claims below).

If you prefer to have your dealer make this repair, please arrange with your dealer for repair on a mutually agreed upon date. Request the dealer to return the "AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE" card with box number # 8 checked and note the number of 39-inch flip seats that this unit has. The dealer must note on the card his shipping address. We will have the kit shipped directly to your dealer. Please allow sufficient time for your dealer to procure the repair kit.

REPAIR PROCEDURE

The repair procedure involves adding a "Z" shaped bracket to the underside of the seat. The following steps must be followed to repair the defect. (**WARNING: PROPER EYE PROTECTION MUST BE WORN WHILE OPERATING POWER TOOLS.**)

- Remove the existing seat retaining clip.
- The "Z" shaped bracket must be attached to the "Cushion Frame Support Bar" and the bottom side of the seat. The short leg of the bracket must face the rear of the seat. The bracket must be centered width wise on the "Cushion Frame Support Bar". The front edge of the bracket must be located 1/8 inch to the rear of the front face of the "Cushion Frame Support Bar". Make sure that the bracket will contact both "Seat Support Tabs".
- Using the holes provided in the bracket as a location guide, use a # 16 (0.1770) drill bit to drill three holes in the "Cushion Frame Support Bar" and three holes in the seat cushion plywood base. (Caution - Do not drill completely through the plywood.)
- Install the supplied screws in all six holes.
- Complete and return the self addressed "RECALL REPAIR REPLY CARD" included with the kit.



PICTURE SHOWING REPAIRED SEAT WITH "Z" BRACKET

LABOR:

Install bracket	.1 hr per bracket
Complete recall information	.2 hr

PARTS:

<u>PART NUMBER</u>	<u>PART DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
452875001	Kit, Recall 01303	1 required per 39-inch flip seat

RECALL CLAIMS:

For Repairs Performed By Customer or Dealers Other Than International

To assist in processing the recall, it is important that you provide an invoice with the following information to American Transportation Corporation, PO Box 6000, Conway, AR, 72033, Attn: Compliance Department.

**Body Serial #: Vin #: Recall Campaign #: Facilities Repair Labor Rate:
Number of 39-Inch Flip Seats Repaired on the Unit:**

WHAT YOUR AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION DEALER WILL DO

Your American Transportation dealer will repair your vehicle **free of charge** (parts and labor). American Transportation estimates that its dealers will have instructions to remedy this defect by October 20, 2001. Please arrange with your American Transportation dealer for repair on a mutually agreed upon date.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If the dealer does not remedy this condition without charge on the mutually agreed upon date, 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 1-800-993-7686 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 have caused.

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.