



U.S. Department
of Transportation
National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

ODI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: PE02-019
SUBJECT: Electrical Vault Access Panel
PROMPTED BY: Field inspection
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: *Bob Young*

DATE OPENED: 11-Feb-02

MANUFACTURER: Champion Bus, Inc.
MODEL: Contender
MODEL YEAR: 1999
VEHICLE POPULATION: To be determined

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: The electrical vault access panel, located above and behind the driver's head, may inadvertently open striking the driver.

REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
REPORTS:	1	TBD	TBD
CRASHES:	0*	TBD	TBD

NHTSA is aware of one alleged injury due to inadvertent access panel opening while a subject bus was being driven.

ACTION: Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE) and request information from Champion.

ENGINEER: *Bob Young*

DIV CHF:

Richard Byrd

OFC DIR:

[Signature]

7-Feb-02

DATE

2/11/02

DATE

2/11/02

DATE

Summary: The subject access panel (shown in the attached photos) is retained by two hex-keyed rotary latches. These latches lack indexing making it difficult to determine whether they are in the locked position. If the latches are inadvertently left unlocked, the access panel may open and strike the driver's head. NHTSA has opened this inquiry to determine the alleged problem's scope.

JMS
02/20/02