



September 12, 2013

**VIA E-MAIL  
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Ms. Nancy Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Champion Bus  
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Champion has been notified by A&M Systems incorporated (A&M) concerning a safety defect involving door headers built between August 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010. A&M has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this defect. NHTSA has assigned recall number 13E-045 to the A&M recall campaign.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain buses manufactured by Champion were built with A&M door headers that contain the defect.

As more specifically set forth below, A&M has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective door headers. Champion will provide A&M with a list of dealers and owners to assist A&M in remedying the defect. A&M will be filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The recall population includes the following product brands manufactured by Champion.

<u>Product Brand</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
American Crusader	2010
American Coach	2010
Challenger	2009-2010
Crusader	2009-2010
CTS-FE	2010
CTS-RE	2010
Defender	2009-2011
EZ Trans	2009-2011
IC High Floor	2010-2011
IC Low Floor	2010

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is: 598.  
These vehicles were built between August 1, 2009 and May 19, 2011.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to this recall campaign were manufactured with the defective door headers. A&M has decided that the affected door headers contain a Model 3230 PC Board that can over-heat and result in a fire.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. This issue was identified to Champion on June 4, 2013 as a result of a fire in a customer's bus located in Jacksonville, Florida. Champion notified A & M at that time, who took control of the investigation as to the cause of the incident. Champion received a letter and technical bulletin issued by A & M on August 1, 2013 notifying them of the recall of their door headers. Champion and Thor then directed A&M to contact NHTSA and have a formal equipment recall issued for this product.
- D. Remediying of Defect. As outlined in the A&M recall 13E-045, the remedy is to inspect the A&M door header to see if it contains the Model 3230 PC Board. If the header is found to contain the defective PC board, it will be replaced. This inspection and remedy will be done at no cost to the owner.
- E. Owner Notifications. Champion will notify the owners of the buses. A copy of the letter is attached for approval.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. A&M will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 13E-045. Because the information included by A&M in its quarterly reports will encompass the remediying of the Champion buses subject to this recall campaign, Champion will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. Campaign Number. Champion does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Champion will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Champion with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Champion in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact David Mihalick at 937-596-7965 or Mike Clark, Champion at 810-724-6474.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick  
Thor Industries  
Standards Compliance Manager