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September 18, 2013

Nancy L. Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
Attn: Recall Management Division

Subject: NABI Safety Recall #20136 – Sure Power Battery Equalizers.

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Attached is a Vehicle Defect Initial Information Report, which is being submitted by NABI Bus, LLC pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573.

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

Sincerely,

NABI Bus, LLC (NABI)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan C. Allen".

Dan C. Allen
Chief Engineer
Ph. 256-453-2242

Enclosures

NABI Bus, LLC (NABI)

VEHICLE DEFECT
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Date: September 18, 2013

NABI Recall No. 20136

MAKE	MODEL	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURED DATES		OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
				FROM	THROUGH	
NABI	LFW; CLFW; BRT	2000- 2011	3,582	1/1/2000	12/31/2011	Certain city transit buses equipped with certain Sure Power battery equalizers
Optima	Opus	2000- 2009	755	1/1/2000	12/31/2009	Certain city transit buses equipped with certain Sure Power battery equalizers

Total Number of Vehicles: 4,337 Percent Potentially Containing Defect: Estimated 100%

VEHICLE DEFECT
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Certain city transit buses, manufactured by NABI and Optima/Chance Bus are equipped with Sure Power manufactured battery equalizers. Sure Power has advised NABI that Sure Power is recalling the subject equalizers built between January 2000 and August 2013. Optima/Chance was acquired by NABI in 2006 and certain buses manufactured with the subject equalizers are included in this recall report.

RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY: A failure of the battery equalizers may lead to a thermal event (smoke and/or fire). The specific potting compound used in the subject equalizers for insulation was found to be capable of conducting electricity once exposed to significant thermal energy. Once electrically conductive, the material is capable of self-heating and maintaining temperatures capable of accelerating a thermal incident. Thermal energy can be sourced by various electrical failures and Sure Power is still investigating whether there are application-specific contributions to the risk of failure. Sure Power has reported that electrical failures have been traced to water intrusion or solder joint fatigue resulting from ongoing expansion and contraction due to thermal cycling. Sure Power has reported that confirmed incidents to date have demonstrated smoking or flame at the affected part with additional damage limited to adjacent/connected parts such as wire harnesses and cables. No injuries have been recorded to date. The failure mechanism is not detectable and no warning is given prior to thermal failure.

1) CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT:

- It is unknown at this time how many NABI or Optima/Chance buses have experienced a failure of subject battery equalizer. However, NABI is aware of Sure Power equalizer failures of unknown cause.
- On or about September 10, 2013 NABI received a recall notice from Sure Power (copy attached).
- NABI investigated and determined that buses were manufactured by NABI were equipped with the subject equalizers.
- On September 13, 2013, NABI decided to initiate a formal recall.

2) REMEDY EXPENSE: Sure Power and NABI will replace these equalizers free of charge.

3) EARLIEST DATE TO BE REMEDIED: November 2013.

4) PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: There will be no public announcement.

5) OWNER LETTER: A draft notification letter will be provided for review and approval by NHTSA.