



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 10, 2015

Jerrod Naracon  
Warranty Administrator  
Champion Bus, Inc.  
331 Graham Road  
Imlay City, MI 48444

NVS-215MR  
15V-391

**Subject:** Seat Belts may Rub and Fray/FMVSS 209

Dear Mr. Naracon:

This letter serves to acknowledge Champion Bus, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

CHAMPION/AMERICAN COACH/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/AMERICAN CRUSADER/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/CTS-FE/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/CTS-RE/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/DFUC/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/EZ-TRANS/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/HC/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/HCAC/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/LF TRANSPORT/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/PREMIER/2013-2015  
CHAMPION/SPIRIT/2013-2015

**Mfr's Report Date:** June 18, 2015

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 15V-391

**Components:**

SEAT BELTS:FRONT:WEBBING

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,818

**Problem Description:**

Champion Bus, Inc. (Champion) is recalling certain model year 2013-2015 American Crusader, American Coach, Challenger, Crusader, CTS-FE, CTS-RE, Defender, EZ Trans, HCAC, HC, DFUC, LF Transport, Premier, and Spirit transit buses manufactured March 1, 2013, to June 12, 2015. In the affected vehicles, the passenger seat belts may rub against the metal seat frame and fray. As a result, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies."

**Consequence:**

A frayed seat belt may fail to properly restrain the seat occupant in the event of a crash, increasing the risk of injury.

**Remedy:**

Champion will notify owners, and dealers will install a plastic sleeve over the metal seat frame, and replace any seat belts that show evidence of fraying, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in July 2015. Owners may contact Champion customer service at 1-810-724-1753 extension 562.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

We have received Champion's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

You are required to submit copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement