



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 4, 2015

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

NVS-215KS
15V-757

Subject: Wheel Chair Lift Link Arm Pivot Holes

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/2006-2015
CHAMPION/AMERICAN COACH/2006-2015
CHAMPION/AMERICAN CRUSADER/2006-2015
CHAMPION/CHALLENGER/2006-2015
CHAMPION/CORPORAL/2006-2015
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2006-2015
CHAMPION/CTS-FE/2006-2015
CHAMPION/CTS-RE/2006-2015
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2006-2015
CHAMPION/HC AMERICAN/2006-2015
CHAMPION/PLATINUM SHUTTLE/2006-2015
CHAMPION/STACKED RAIL/2006-2015

Mfr's Report Date: November 12, 2015

NHTSA Campaign Number: 15V-757

Components:

EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,240

Problem Description:

Champion Bus, Inc. (Champion) is recalling certain model year 2006-2015 Challenger, Defender, Crusader, American, American Coach, American Crusader, Corporal, CTS-FE, CTS-RE, HC American, Platinum Shuttle, and Stacked Rail transit buses manufactured January 1, 2006, to August 25, 2015, equipped with certain model S2005, S2010, S5005, S5010, S5505, and S5510 wheelchair lifts. The affected lifts are equipped with folding link arms that may have pivot holes that are too big, allowing the bearings to move out of position.

Consequence:

If the bearings move out of position, the stowed platform may have excessive movement resulting in failure of the platform mounting.

This failure could cause the wheel chair lift platform to fall out of the vehicle when the doors are opened, increasing the risk of injury for the lift operator.

Remedy:

Champion will notify owners, and Ricon will inspect the link arms for damage or for displaced bearings. The platform will be inspected for cracks. Any damaged parts will be replaced, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin December 7, 2015. Owners may contact Champion customer service at 1-810-724-1753 extension 415, or Ricon customer service at 1-800-322-2884. Champion's number for this recall is 15E-068. Note: These buses and wheelchair lifts were subject to a similar recall in 2014. All vehicles that received that recall remedy are still affected by this recall as well.

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.

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

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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 Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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