



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 17, 2017

Mr. James Anderson
President
Van-Con, Inc.
123 William Street
Middlesex, NJ 08846

NEF-150KS
17V-666

Subject: Incorrect Seat Belt Buckle Position/FMVSS 222

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This letter serves to acknowledge Van-Con, 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:

VAN-CON/33803 DUAL REAR-WHEEL/2011-2017

Mfr's Report Date: November 14, 2017

NHTSA Campaign Number: 17V-666

Components:

SEAT BELTS: REAR:BUCKLE ASSEMBLY
SEAT BELTS:FRONT:BUCKLE ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 266

Problem Description:

Van-Con, Inc. (Van-Con) is recalling certain 2011-2017 Dual Rear-Wheel school buses, model 33803, built on Chevrolet 3500 chassis. The seat belt buckle latch plate assembly, when buckled, may rest across the seated passenger's lap instead of being located to the side of the passenger. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 222, "School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection."

Consequence:

The incorrectly positioned seat belt assembly may increase the risk of occupant injury in the event of a crash.

Remedy:

Van-Con will notify owners and will replace the buckle end of the seat belt with a shorter length buckle end, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin December 19, 2017. Owners may contact Van-Con customer service at 1-732-356-8484.

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.

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.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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