



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 9, 2018

Mr. Dan Daniels
Compliance Officer
Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company
2601 Northland Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514

NEF-150MR
18E-056

Subject: Knee Impact Area Foam Insufficient/FMVSS 222

Dear Mr. Daniels:

This letter serves to acknowledge Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company'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:

CE WHITE/SCHOOL BUS SEAT/9999

Mfr's Report Date: July 17, 2018

NHTSA Campaign Number: 18E-056

Components:

SEATS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 23,286

Problem Description:

Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company (HSM) is recalling certain CE White SB11-30" series, standard, unbelted, school bus seats, and SB11-30" series school bus seats with lap belts only. The foam in the knee impact area of the lower seat back may not absorb enough impact in the event of a crash. 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:

If the seat foam does not absorb enough impact energy, it can increase the risk of injury in the event of a crash.

Remedy:

HSM will notify the bus manufacturers that purchased the seats, and dealers for those manufacturers will insert an additional piece of expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam into the seatback, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact HSM customer service at 1-419-492-2157 extension 243.

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 purchaser 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 required in Part 573.6(c)(7), in the case of a noncompliance, please provide the test results and other information used to determine the existence of the noncompliance. Include the date of each test and observation that indicated that a noncompliance might or did exist. Please provide this information as soon as possible.

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 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