



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

August 9, 2019

Mr. Nicholas Reno  
Champion Bus, Inc.  
331 Graham Rd  
Imlay City, MI 48027

NEF-150MR  
19V-554

**Subject:** Roof Hatch External Handle May Break/FMVSS 217

Dear Mr. Reno:

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/CHALLENGER/2019  
CHAMPION/CRUSADER/2019  
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2019  
CHAMPION/LF TRANSPORT/2019  
GOSHEN/G-FORCE/2019  
GOSHEN/IMPULSE/2019  
GOSHEN/PACER II/2019

**Mfr's Report Date:** July 25, 2019

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 19V-554

**Components:**

STRUCTURE:BODY:DOOR/WINDOW:EMERGENCY EXIT

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 362

**Problem Description:**

Champion Bus, Inc. (Champion) is recalling certain 2019 Challenger, Crusader, Defender and LF Transport and Goshen G-Force, Impulse and Pacer II shuttle buses equipped with Prolo roof emergency escape hatches. Due to a manufacturing issue, the roof hatch external handle may unexpectedly break under reasonable use.

**Consequence:**

If the roof hatch external handle breaks, in the event of an emergency, the hatch cannot be easily opened from outside the vehicle, increasing the risk of injury.

**Remedy:**

Champion will notify owners, and dealers will replace the handle, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin September 16, 2019. Owners may contact Champion customer service 1-810-724-1753, extension 415.

**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).

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).

Per the requirements of 49 USC 30119, please provide the part number, name and description of the component or components that need to be replaced to remedy this recall condition. This information should be provided in an amended 573 in the "Describe what distinguishes the remedy component from the recalled component" section.

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joshua Neff  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement