

American Transportation Corporation

RECALL NOTICE

AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION RECALL # 01302
NHTSA RECALL # 01V-241

August 2001

Dear American Transportation Bus Customer:

Issue: Heater/Defroster Motor Excessive Operating Current

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. American Transportation Corporation has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exist in certain AmTran® RE™ and AmTran® FE™ buses. The heater/defroster blower in these buses may have excessive current draw, which in some cases has caused the melting of the switch terminals and/or the switch harness. The melting of the switch terminals and the switch harness is being considered a **safety issue**.

The affected AmTran RE and AmTran FE model buses were built from January 01, 1998 through June 30, 2000. The vehicle identified on the enclosed card fits this description and our records show you as the owner of this vehicle.

DEFECT DESCRIPTION

The subject AmTran RE and AmTran FE bus has a heater/defroster blower, which may have excessive current draw when operated at high speed only. This condition may cause the melting of the switch terminals and/or the switch harness.

ACTIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE

Advise the operators of the subject buses of this defect. If the operator detects smoke or the smell of melting wire insulation from the blower control panel or repeated failure of the circuit protection for the heater, the operation of the heater/defroster at high speed should be discontinued until the repair is made. If the reduced performance compromises the safe operation of the bus, the bus should be placed out of service until the repair is made.

Inspect the identified unit per the following instructions.

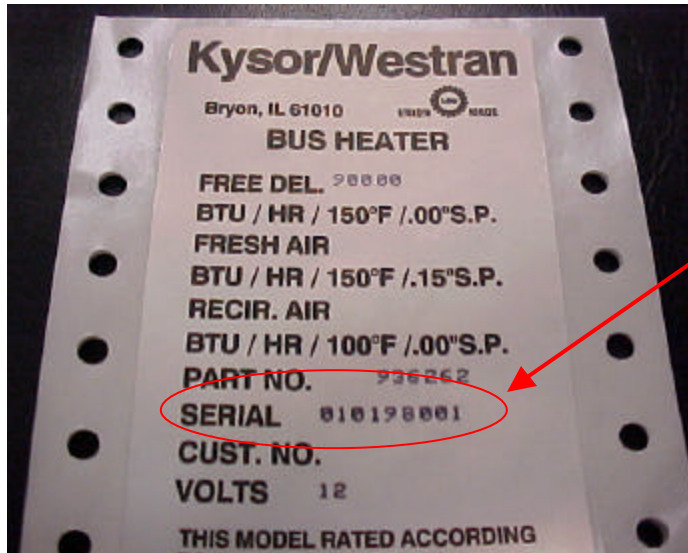
INSPECTION PROCEDURE

The owner or dealer may perform this inspection.

Step # 1. Verify that the heater system installed in this unit is involved in this recall.

- Inspect the serial number on the Kysor Westran I.D. label located on the cover of the unit. (See picture below.)
- The first six digits of the serial number are the date in MMDDYY format. Example: (010198) January/1st/98.

- If the date is not between Jan 01, 1998 and June 30, 2000, return the “AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE” card with box # 1 checked (Inspected – No corrections necessary). This bus does not require repair and we will document that the inspection has been performed.
- If the date is between Jan 01, 1998 and June 30, 2000, proceed to step # 2.



Serial Number

Step # 2. Verify that the heater/defroster blower assembly has excessive current draw. The excessive current draw only happens when the heater is operated at high speed. A 20-ampere fuse or circuit breaker protects the heater circuit on the bus. The fuse or circuit breaker is located in the body fuse panel identified as a heavy gauge black wire with the circuit number 7 stamped on the wire. This body fuse panel is located in the electrical access box located just below the driver's window. If you are experiencing smoke or the smell of melting wire insulation from the blower control panel or repeated failure of the 20-ampere circuit protection for the heater, the cause may be because the heater/defroster blower assembly has excessive current draw. **(Caution: Never use circuit protection larger than specified, which in this case is 20-ampere.)**

- If the problems defined in step # 2 are positive, the defroster fan assembly with motor and switch must be replaced and the replaced parts returned to the supplier for review. See Repair Procedure below.
- If you are not experiencing the problems noted in step #2, return the enclosed self addressed and stamped “AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE” card with box # 1 checked (Inspected – No corrections necessary). This bus does not require repair and we will document that the inspection has been performed.

REPAIR PROCEDURE

You may make this repair yourself or request your dealer to make this repair.

If you choose to make this repair, complete and return the enclosed self-addressed and stamped “AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE” card with box # 8 checked.

Please verify that your UPS shipping address is correct. When the card is returned to us with box 8 checked, we will request the heater manufacturer to forward to your attention a kit with instructions to make the repair. When the repair is completed, an invoice should be sent to collect for the labor (see Recall Claims below).

If you prefer to have your dealer make this repair, please arrange with your dealer for repair on a mutually agreed upon date. Request the dealer to return the "AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE" card with box # 8 checked. The dealer must note on the card his shipping address. We will have the kit shipped directly to your dealer. Please allow sufficient time for your dealer to receive the repair kit.

The repair procedure involves the replacement of the defroster blower assembly with the motor, switch and switch harness. Complete instructions to make the repair are included with the kit and no special tools are required. Replaced parts from the repair must be returned to the supplier for evaluation. If the replaced parts are not returned to the supplier a charge for the new parts originally furnished at no charge will be billed to the receiving party. Return shipping instructions will be included with the repair instructions.

LABOR:

Remove, and install new blower and switch assembly	1.6 hrs.
Complete recall documentation and inspection	.2 hr.

PARTS:

<u>PART NUMBER</u>	<u>PART DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
Bergstom # 869579	RE Repair Kit	1
Bergstom # 869581	FE Repair Kit	1

RECALL CLAIMS:

For Repairs Performed By Customer or Dealers Other Than International

To assist in processing the recall, it is important that you provide an invoice with the following information to American Transportation Corporation, PO Box 6000, Conway, Arkansas, 72033, Attn: Compliance Department.

Body Serial #: Vin #: Recall Campaign #: Facilities Repair Labor Rate:
Work Performed - Inspection Only or Inspection and Repair:
Shipping Cost to Return Failed Parts:

Note: No claims will be paid until the replaced parts are returned.

WHAT YOUR AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION DEALER WILL DO

Your American Transportation dealer will repair your vehicle **free of charge** (parts and labor). American Transportation estimates that its dealers will have instructions to remedy this defect by October 1, 2001. Please arrange with your American Transportation dealer for repair on a mutually agreed upon date.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If the dealer does not remedy this condition without charge on the mutually agreed upon date, you can obtain assistance by calling American Transportation customer service at the toll free number listed below. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration if you believe that American Transportation Corporation or its dealer has failed to remedy the vehicle without charge, within a reasonable time, which is no longer than 60 days after you first tender to obtain repair. Submit your complaints to 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

If you have questions concerning this notification, please contact an authorized American Transportation dealer or our Compliance Department at 1-800-843-5615. You may locate your nearest dealer by calling 1-800-993-7686 or you may call our Compliance Department.

We request your prompt attention in the correction of this defect and apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused.

IMPORTANT

In the event you no longer own the vehicle described, please fill in the requested information on the enclosed postage-prepaid card and return it to us. This information will allow us to notify the correct owner.