

# IC Corporation

## RECALL NOTICE

**IC CORPORATION RECALL # 02303**  
**NHTSA RECALL # 02V-343**

**January 2003**

**Dear IC Corporation Bus Customer** (formerly American Transportation Corporation):

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. IC Corporation has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain American Transportation RE™, FE™ and CE buses and certain 1552 and 1652 stripped chassis. The hydraulic brake master cylinder may have been damaged during the fill and bleed procedure. This damage can cause brake drag, brake lock-up or extended stopping distance. This could cause a crash, possibly resulting in property damage, personal injury or death and is considered a **safety issue**.

The affected RE model buses were built from July 25, 2002 through October 30, 2002. The affected FE model buses were built from July 11, 2002 through November 6, 2002. The affected CE model buses were built from July 9, 2002 through November 26, 2002. The affected 1652 model stripped chassis were built from July 9, 2002 through October 15, 2002. The affected 1552 model stripped chassis were built from August 29, 2002 through October 15, 2002. The vehicle identified on the enclosed card fits this description and our records show you as the owner of this vehicle.

### **DEFECT DESCRIPTION**

Because of our supplier's incorrect routing of hoses on our evacuation and fill machine, the master cylinder on these subject vehicles may have been damaged during the fill and bleed procedure at the Conway manufacturing plant. The damage is not visible without disassembly and in most cases has not affected normal brake operation.

### **ACTIONS YOU SHOULD TAKE:**

Advise the operators of the subject vehicles of this defect. If the operator detects any of the following brake operating abnormalities the vehicle should be placed out of service until the repair is made.

- Dragging or locked brakes.
- Extended stopping distance. This condition is not predictable because it is dependent on the volume of fluid back flow past a damaged seal. The driver may feel the pedal fade or go completely to the floor. The condition also may be detected by the pedal fading to the floor while holding steady pressure on the pedal.
- Illumination of the brake warning light.

All vehicles involved in this recall must have the master cylinder replaced.

### **REPAIR PROCEDURE:**

Your dealer will make this correction for you at no cost. Contact your dealer to make the arrangements to repair your unit.

If you desire to make this repair yourself, you may purchase the parts from the dealer. When you invoice us for the cost of labor, you may add the cost for the parts purchased at your dealer and replacement brake fluid. If brake fluid costs exceed \$3.00 per unit, a receipt must be attached to the invoice. If for some reason you are unable to obtain the replacement parts from your local dealer, you may return the “**AUTHORIZATION FOR RECALL SERVICE**” card with box # 8 checked and we will ship the parts, except the brake fluid, directly to you at no charge. Brake fluid can be purchased locally. Please verify that your shipping address is correct. A Post Office Box (P.O. Box) number for shipping is not acceptable. We must have a street or road address.



**To prevent serious eye injury, always wear safe eye protection when you perform vehicle maintenance or service.**



**Block the wheels to prevent the vehicle from moving. If a vehicle moves unexpectedly or suddenly, the result could be serious personal injury or death.**



**If the vehicle must be raised, do not work under a vehicle supported only by jacks. Jacks can slip or fall over potentially resulting in serious personal injury or death.**

This repair procedure involves replacing the master cylinder and bleeding the brakes. The instructions for replacing the master cylinder on the FE and RE models are different from the other models. Please see notes for FE and RE.

1. Disconnect the pressure differential switch plug.
2. Place a container under the master cylinder to catch fluid and spray lubricant on all brake line fittings at the master cylinder. Observe the location of the hydraulic lines at the master cylinder to prevent lines being switched at re-assembly.
3. Remove the two pressure brake lines and immediately plug and cap lines to keep out foreign matter. Loosen the reservoir cap and allow all brake fluid in the reservoir to drain through the master cylinder and into the drain pan. Do not reuse the fluid. (**Note FE and RE models only:** Loosen the two supply lines at the top of the master cylinder.)
4. Remove the four nuts securing the master cylinder to the booster assembly.
5. Remove any brake or electrical supports that may hinder removal.

6. **(Note FE and RE models only:** Disconnect the two brake lines on top of the master cylinder and cover the open ends of the lines to prevent contaminants from entering the brake lines.) Remove the master cylinder.
7. Remove the new master cylinder, which has a new pressure differential switch installed, from the box.
8. Install the new master cylinder. Reinstall any brake or electrical supports that were removed. Torque the four mounting nuts to 25-30 Lb-Ft (34-41 NM).
9. **(Note FE and RE models only:** Remove the cover from the supply lines and re-connect the top two brake lines and torque to 16-17 Lb-Ft (22-23 NM). Be careful when connecting hydraulic brake line fittings to avoid damage from cross-threading or over tightening.)
10. Reconnect the wire connector to the pressure differential switch.
11. Refill the reservoir with new DOT3 brake fluid.
12. Bleed the master cylinder on the vehicle.
13. Remove the cover and reconnect the two pressure lines to the master cylinder and torque to 16-17 Lb-Ft (22-23 NM). Be careful when connecting hydraulic brake line fittings to avoid damage from cross-threading or over tightening.
14. Bleed the complete system, top-off the reservoir and tighten the reservoir cap.

#### **CHECKING THE BRAKE SYSTEM:**

1. With the ignition in the OFF position, apply brake pedal and verify that the Electric Motor Back-up Pump is operating (should be audible).
2. With the ignition key ON and the engine NOT Running, observe that the Electric Motor Back-up Pump is operating and BRAKE PRESS light is on.
3. With the engine running, depress the brake pedal with sufficient force until a "hard pedal" is felt and hold this position for 10 seconds. Repeat this procedure three times.
4. Check the master cylinder/booster assembly and all brake line connections for leaks. If any leak or other abnormality is observed, repair before operating the vehicle.
5. Remove chocks from wheels.

#### **LABOR:**

To replace the master cylinder, bleed the brakes and complete the paper work.

1.5 hours for all models except FE and RE

1.7 hours for FE and RE models only

#### **PARTS:**

<b><u>PART NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>PART DESCRIPTION</u></b>	<b><u>QUANTITY</u></b>
1681210C92	Master Cylinder 1552 models	1
1691291C92	Master Cylinder CE & 1652 models	1
1691024C94	Master Cylinder FE & RE models	1

#### **RECALL CLAIMS:**

##### **For Repairs Performed By Customer or Non Authorized Dealers**

To assist in processing the recall, it is important that you provide an invoice with the following information.

**Body Serial #:**      **Vin #:**      **Recall Campaign #:**      **Facilities Repair Labor rate**

**Parts Cost** Provide copy of receipt for new master cylinder if applicable. (If brake fluid costs exceed \$3.00 per unit, you must include a copy of the receipt for same, otherwise, add as miscellaneous materials.)

All correspondence must be returned to IC Corporation, PO Box 6000, Conway, Arkansas, 72033, Attn: Compliance Department.

**WHAT YOUR DEALER WILL DO**

Your dealer will repair your vehicle **free of charge** (parts and labor). We estimate that our dealers will have instructions to remedy this defect by January 30, 2003. Please make arrangements with your 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 IC Corporation's Compliance Department 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 IC 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 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.