



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: December 14, 2015

In reply refer to: H-15-43

Mr. Peter J. Pantuso
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Bus Association
111 K St. NE, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20002-8110

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the American Bus Association (ABA) to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On November 17, 2015, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its report concerning the September 26, 2014, crash in which a Peterbilt truck-tractor in combination with a Great Dane semitrailer, operated by Quickway Transportation Inc., collided with a Champion Defender 32-passenger medium-size bus on Interstate 35, near Davis, Oklahoma.¹ The truck-tractor departed the roadway, traveled more than 1,100 feet across the median without evidence of braking or steering, entered the southbound lanes of traffic, and collided with the bus—which was transporting 15 members of the North Central Texas College softball team. As a result of the crash, four passengers on the bus were fully or partially ejected and died, and both drivers and the remaining passengers were injured. Additional information about this crash and the resulting recommendations may be found at our website, www.nts.gov, under report number NTSB/HAR-15/03.

As a result of this investigation, we issued seven new recommendations, including two to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; one to the National Highway Traffic Safety

¹ See *Truck-Tractor Semitrailer Median Crossover Collision With Medium-Size Bus on Interstate 35, Davis, Oklahoma,, September 26, 2014*, Highway Accident Report NTSB/HAR-15/03 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2015).

Administration (NHTSA); one to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); one to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; one to the American Association of Community Colleges; and the following recommendation to the ABA, the American Trucking Associations, the United Motorcoach Association, the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance:

H-15-43

Inform your members about the dangers of driver use of synthetic drugs and encourage them to take steps to prevent drivers from using these substances.

As a result of this investigation, we also reiterated five previously issued recommendations to NHTSA and two each to the FHWA and to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. In addition, we superseded one previously issued recommendation to the governors and legislatures of the 50 states, the US Territories, and the District of Columbia.

This safety recommendation is derived from the NTSB's investigation and is consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HART, Vice Chairman DINH-ZARR, and Members SUMWALT and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov.

[Original Signed]

By: Christopher A. Hart,
Chairman



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: December 14, 2015

In reply refer to: H-15-43

Mr. Bill Graves
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Trucking Associations
950 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 210
Arlington, VA 22203-4181

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the American Trucking Associations (ATA) to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On November 17, 2015, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) adopted its report concerning the September 26, 2014, crash in which a Peterbilt truck-tractor in combination with a Great Dane semitrailer, operated by Quickway Transportation Inc., collided with a Champion Defender 32-passenger medium-size bus on Interstate 35, near Davis, Oklahoma.¹ The truck-tractor departed the roadway, traveled more than 1,100 feet across the median without evidence of braking or steering, entered the southbound lanes of traffic, and collided with the bus—which was transporting 15 members of the North Central Texas College softball team. As a result of the crash, four passengers on the bus were fully or partially ejected and died, and both drivers and the remaining passengers were injured. Additional information about this crash and the resulting recommendations may be found at our website, www.nts.gov, under report number NTSB/HAR-15/03.

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Mr. Collin B. Mooney
Acting Executive Director
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
6303 Ivy Ln., Suite 310
Greenbelt, MD 20770-6319

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

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Chairman



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In reply refer to: H-15-43

Mr. Jim Johnston
President
Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association
1 NW OOIDA Dr.
Grain Valley, MO 64029-7903

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

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Mr. Victor S. Para
President and Chief Executive Officer
United Motorcoach Association
113 S. West St., Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2851

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the United Motorcoach Association (UMA) to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

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