



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-012
Date Opened: 03/01/2007
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Inadvertent Door Closing

Date Closed: 06/25/2007

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC
Products: 2005-2008 C2 Thomas Built School Buses
Population: 11,359

Problem Description: The main door unexpectedly closes during loading and unloading of passenger, resulting in the school bus warning lights turning off.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|----------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints: | 8 | 335 | 335 |
| Crashes/Fires: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Injury | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| # Injuries: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fatality | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| # Fatalities: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other*: | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Description of Other:

Action: This PE is closed. Freightliner is conducting a safety recall, (07V- 212).

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 06/25/2007 *SM*

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 06/25/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 06/25/2007

Summary: This investigation was opened based on four fleets contacting ODI alleging multiple events where the front entrance door unexpectedly closed while loading and discharging children. When this occurs, the bus warning lights (red warning lamps and stop arm lamps) are de-activated, since they operate off the door control. ODI's concern was that children may still be crossing the road and be in the path of traffic should this event occur.

As a result of this investigation, Freightliner submitted a safety recall to repair approximately 11,359 Model Year 2005 through 2008 SAF-T-LINERS. This recall covers the entire Model C2 Population, introduced by Thomas in 2005. All owners (and fleets) will be notified upon the final validation of a permanent solution. Freightliner believes that the problem stems from incorrect electrical signals being sent to the door control mechanism. This would cause the doors to open or close unexpectedly without input from the driver. Freightliner estimates that the dealers will be notified approximately July 16, 2007.

This resolves the issue raised by this investigation. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

FREIGHTLINER
LLC

a DaimlerChrysler Company

**07V-212
(2 pages)**

Nasser Zamani
Manager
Government Technical Affairs

MAY 18 AM 11:45

Freightliner LLC
4747 N. Channel Ave
Portland, OR 97217-7699
503-745-6910 Phone
503-745-5644 Fax
NasserZamani@Freightliner.com

May 18, 2007

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Information Report FL-496, TBB Warning Light Malfunction

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 11,359, Thomas Built Buses, Saf-T-Liner C2 buses manufactured December 1, 2003 through current production with a defect in the warning lights.

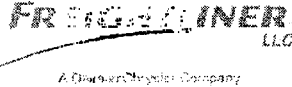
Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7002 3150 0004 1405 0976



Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

May 18, 2007

(c)(1) Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

Brands: Thomas Built Buses

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:
Model(s) affected: Saf-T-Liner C2
Model Years affected: 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008
Manufacture Dates: 12/01/2003 - current
Basis for determining population: All Saf-T-Liner C2 buses built since start of production
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Unknown

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 11,359

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: Unknown

(c)(5) Description of the defect: On affected vehicles the warning lights may stop functioning unexpectedly if the front entrance door closes without driver's input.
49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Failure of the warning lights to remain on during the loading or unloading process could put students at risk of injury or death.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: In December 2006 Thomas Bus received a complaint linking erratic entrance door operation to a potential malfunction of the warning lights. Investigation into the root cause of erratic entrance door operation continues. Preliminary evaluations indicate a switch malfunction or loss of continuity between the switch and the control mechanism.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: None

(c)(8) Remedial program: Repairs will be performed by Thomas Bus dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Thomas Bus to do their own warranty repairs. Estimated dealer notification date is approximately July 16, 2007. Pending validation of permanent solution, dealers should refer to PSB C2 - 2 - 12 when erratic door operation is suspected.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately July 16, 2007.

Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c)(9) Communications sent to dealers and owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c)(10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.

(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL- 496