



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation:	PE 11-031	Date Closed:	02/02/2012
Date Opened:	09/12/2011	Reviewer:	Bruce York-B
Investigator:	Ric Willard		
Approver:	Frank Borris		
Subject:	Pass-Through Power Stud Corrosion		

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer:	THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC., FREIGHTLINER LLC
Products:	2005 - 2007 Thomas Built C2 School Bus
Population:	3,300
Problem Description:	Auxiliary battery post may corrode creating a path to ground posing a fire risk.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	6	0	6

***Description of Other:** 6 incidents of potentially related corrosion found.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This PE is closed. A safety recall (11V-503) is being conducted.

Summary:

ODI received a complaint regarding a corroded battery post located behind a service panel near the driver's seat on a 2006 Thomas Built C2 school bus that resulted in a fire on the vehicle. It was determined that like buses built prior to a December 26, 2005 design change which added a flange to the lower edge of the panel were susceptible to water intrusion. The design change was meant to address concerns of loose panels but consequently prevented water ingress and the subject corrosion.

Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA) submitted a recall notice on October 18, 2011 involving 3,300 of the estimated 6,139 vehicles subject to this investigation. In subsequent communication with ODI, DTNA explained that nearly two thirds of 4,773 MY2007 vehicles were built with the December 26 design change and therefore do not contain the safety related defect. DTNA's announcement of a safety recall on this matter, and subsequent explanation of the scope of vehicles involved, addresses ODI's concerns. The 573 letter was received prior to the due date of the IR response, therefore DTNA has been relieved from having to submit an IR response. DTNA will inspect, clean, repair and protect power cables as needed.

The subject vehicles have been recalled and this investigation is closed.

The ODI report cited above can be reviewed at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints under the following identification (ODI) number: 10395455