



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

FEB 18 2005

BILL SODERSTROM
DAIMLERCHRYSLER COMMERCIAL BUSES NC
6012 HIGH POINT ROAD
GREENSBORO NC 27407

NVS-215
05V-057

Subject: EMERGENCY EGRESS WINDOWS

Dear MR. KALE:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
DAIMLERCHRYSLER/SLF/2002-2004

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-057

Recall Date: February 09, 2005

Components:
STRUCTURE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 262

Summary:
CERTAIN TRANSIT BUSES FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 217, "BUS EMERGENCY EXITS AND WINDOW RETENTION AND RELEASE." THE STRIKER PLATES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE EMERGENCY PUSHOUT WINDOWS CAN WEAR A GROOVE INTO THE EMERGENCY RELEASE BOLT. IF THIS GROOVE BECOMES DEEP ENOUGH, THE EMERGENCY PUSH WINDOW MAY FAIL TO OPEN AS INTENDED WHEN RELEASED.

Consequence:
IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, FAILURE OF THE PUSHOUT WINDOW COULD POTENTIALLY TRAP PASSENGERS OR DELAY THEIR ESCAPE, INCREASING THE RISK OF INJURY.

Remedy:

HEHR INTERNATIONAL IS CONDUCTING THE OWNER NOTIFICATION AND REMEDY FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT HEHR INTERNATIONAL AT 323-663-1261 OR DAIMLERCHRYSLER COMMERCIAL BUS AT 336-454-3484.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

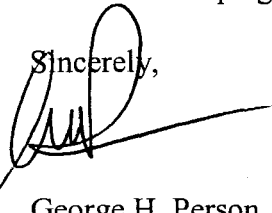
Please provide a date of when the manufacturer became aware of the recall.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in your report, Hehr International will be handling the owner notification, remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.5 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Hehr International's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division