



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

APR 7 2005

MR. TIMOTHY A. BLUBAUGH
DIRECTOR,
GOVERNMENT AND TECHNICAL AFFAIRS
FREIGHTLINER LLC
4747 NORTH CHANNEL AVENUE
PORTLAND, OR 97217-7699

NVS-215kjs
05V-137

Subject: DANA TIE ROD ASSEMBLIES

Dear MR. BLUBAUGH:

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 as this information will be made available to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

THOMAS/HD/2001-2003
THOMAS/HDX/2001-2004
THOMAS/MVP EF/2001-2004
THOMAS/MVP ER/2001-2004

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-137

Recall Date: March 24, 2005

Components:

STEERING:LINKAGES:TIE ROD ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 5,000

Summary:

CERTAIN THOMAS BUILT MVP-EF, ER TRANSIT, MVP-ER, HD, AND HDX SCHOOL AND TRANSIT BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 24, 2000, AND MARCH 4, 2004. THE TIE ROD ASSEMBLY CAN FRACTURE AND FAIL, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN COMPLETE SEPARATION.

Consequence:

TIE ROD FAILURE CAN POSSIBLY RESULT IN COMPLETE WHEEL SEPARATION AND A VEHICLE CRASH COULD OCCUR.

Remedy:

THOMAS BUILT WILL NOTIFY ITS CUSTOMERS AND WILL REPLACE THE TIE ROD ASSEMBLY FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING APRIL 2005. OWNERS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE THE FREE REMEDY WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME SHOULD CONTACT THOMAS BUILT.

This recall is the result of an investigation conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation, PE04-062.

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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).

Your contact for this recall will be KELLY SCHULER, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227 or by email at KSCHULER@NHTSA.DOT.GOV. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,


for George Person, Chief
Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement