



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

**MAY 10 2005**

MR. TIMOTHY BLUBAUGH  
DIRECTOR,  
GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL AFFAIRS  
FREIGHTLINER LLC  
4747 N. CHANNEL AVENUE  
PORTLAND, OR 97217

NVS-215kjs  
05V-208

Subject: JOHN DEERE/ENGINE SURGE

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 accessible to the public.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
THOMAS/ER/2002-2005  
THOMAS/SAF-T-LINER ER/2002-2005

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-208

**Recall Date:** April 20, 2005

**Components:**  
VEHICLE SPEED CONTROL

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 153

**Summary:**  
CERTAIN MY 2002-2005 THOMAS BUILT SAF-T-LINER ER SCHOOL BUSES AND ER TRANSIT BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2002 ANF FEBRUARY 2005 AND EQUIPPED WITH JOHN DEERE 8.1L COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS ENGINES MODELS HFN01 AND HFN03. THE ENGINE CONTROL UNIT AND THROTTLE CAN UNEXPECTEDLY SURGE. THESE UNITS FAIL TO CONFORM TO FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 124, ACCELERATOR CONTROL SYSTEMS.

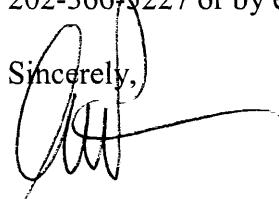
**Consequence:**  
A SUDDEN ENGINE SURGE COULD POSSIBLY RESULT IN A VEHICLE CRASH.

**Remedy:**

JOHN DEERE WILL NOTIFY THE CUSTOMERS OF FREIGHTLINER AND WILL UPDATE THE ENGINE CONTROL UNIT SOFTWARE FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING JUNE 2005. OWNERS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE THE FREE REMEDY WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME SHOULD CONTACT JOHN DEERE AT 1-800-JD-ENGINE.

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](mailto:KSCHULER@NHTSA.DOT.GOV).

Sincerely,

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

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division