



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

SEP 16 2005

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

NVS-215kjs
05V-397

Subject: SIDE EMERGENCY DOOR EXIT

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 BUILT/SAF-T-LINER C2/2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-397

Mfg's Report Date: September 07, 2005

Components:
STRUCTURE:BODY:DOOR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 116

Summary:
CERTAIN 2005 THOMAS SAF-T-LINER C2 SCHOOL BUSES EQUIPPED WITH 30" OR 40" LEFT SIDE EMERGENCY DOOR EXITS MANUFACTURED BETWEEN DECEMBER 17, 2004, AND JULY 28, 2005. THE TELESCOPING SLIDE THAT HOLDS THE SIDE EMERGENCY DOOR OPEN IS LOCATED SUCH THAT IT WILL MOVE PAST ITS NORMAL TRAVEL AND THE MECHANISM MAY LATCH ON THE END OF THE SLIDE PREVENTING THE DOOR FROM OPENING.

Consequence:

THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED THE AGENCY WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSEQUENCE.

Remedy:

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-459. THOMAS BUILT WILL NOTIFY ITS CUSTOMERS AND WILL REPAIR THE BUSES FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 24, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712.

Notes:

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-459. CUSTOMERS CAN CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV).

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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, the recall is expected to begin on October 24, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by January 30, 2006.

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,



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