



Timothy A. Blubaugh
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August 5, 2005

Ron Medford
Sr. Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Defect Information Report (FL-454), NHTSA no. 05V-340, 05V-347
Specialty Manufacturing Stop Arm**

Mr. Medford:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith submits this amended defect information to replace the Defect Information Report dated July 22, 2005 for the Specialty Manufacturing school bus stop arm.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
DOSH, Legal Unit
10th Floor
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Enclosure

Certified Mail Article Number:



A DaimlerChrysler Company

**Defect Information Report
FL-454, NHTSA no. 05V-340, 05V-347**

--- Amended August 5, 2005 ---

(Section 573.6)

August 5, 2005

(c)(1) Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

Brands: Thomas Built Bus

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:
Model(s) affected: Thomas School Bus Models - Minotour, Conventional, MVP-ER, ER, HDX, and MVP-EF
Manufacture Dates: January 8, 2002 through March 8, 2005
Basis for determining population: School buses manufactured with Specialty Manufacturing 5-series stop arms identified in attached Defect Information Report from Specialty.
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:
Specialty Manufacturing Co.
10200 Pineville Rd.
Pineville, NC 28134
Phone 704-889-7518

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected:
13,565 vehicles in these states:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Alaska | Minnesota | Vermont |
| Colorado | Missouri | Virginia |
| Connecticut | Montana | Washington |
| Delaware | New Hampshire | West Virginia |
| Iowa | New Mexico | Wisconsin |
| Idaho | Nevada | Wyoming |
| Illinois | New Jersey | Nebraska |
| Indiana | New York | North Dakota |
| Kansas | Ohio | Tennessee |
| Maine | Pennsylvania | District of Columbia |
| Maryland | Rhode Island | |
| Massachusetts | South Dakota | |
| Michigan | Utah | |

5,583 vehicles in other states

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: unknown

(c)(5) Description of the defect: See Attached Defect Information Report from Specialty Manufacturing Co.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: See Attached Defect Information Report from Specialty Manufacturing Co. Specialty sent a notification letter to Thomas Built Bus on June 8, 2005.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: not applicable

(c)(8) Remedial program: Thomas Built Buses will notify its customers and replace the original switch with a switch pack that is not sensitive to extreme cold weather and will inspect to ensure the microswitch heater wiring is properly connected free of charge. Repairs will be performed by Thomas dealers and direct warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Thomas to do their own warranty repairs.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Thomas Bus will send the customer notification by first class mail. This will be completed approximately August 12, 2005.

Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (9) Communications sent to dealers and owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: Please see attached draft owner notification letter. Owners with vehicles in the designated cold states will receive instructions to contact their Thomas Built Buses dealer for repairs. Owners in the remaining states will be advised to monitor their buses and bring them in for repair if they have been operated in areas with extreme cold conditions. This is being done with reference to NHTSA's Regional Recall Policy.

(c) (11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-454