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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

05V-392 (2pgs.)

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Director
Government Technical Affairs

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September 1, 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-456

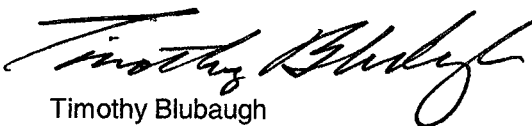
Mr. Medford:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 315 Thomas Built C2 Saf-T-Liner school buses manufactured between August 2004 and May 5, 2005. An Interior trim panel may not meet the requirements of FMVSS 221.

Attached is a Non-Compliance Information Report.

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:
7002 3150 0004 1405 0518**



A DaimlerChrysler Company

Non-Compliance Information Report

(Section 573.6)

September 1, 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: Saf-T-liner C2 School Bus
Manufacture Dates: August 2004 to May 5, 2005
Basis for determining population: All C2
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 315

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 100%

(c)(5) Description of Non-Compliance: Interior panel joints above the rear side window may not meet the strength requirements of FMVSS 221.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: An excessive gap between adjoining panels was first noticed in mid April 2005, during a quality inspection at the Thomas Built Plant. Removal of the panel revealed misalignment between the panel and the support structure.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: Noncompliance per FMVSS 221. School bus interior panel joints are required to have a fastener spacing of no more than 203 mm (8 inches).

(c)(8) Remedial program: Thomas Built Bus Field Service will repair the joint by adding a bracket secured with screws and adhesive. Thomas Built Bus will administer this campaign.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Thomas Bus records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately Oct 1, 2005.

Reimbursement Plan: All prior repairs are covered by warranty.

(c)(9) Communications sent to dealers and owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available. Thomas Built Bus will administer this recall campaign.

(c)(10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: A draft will be sent to ODI review when available. Thomas Built Bus will administer this recall campaign.

(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-456