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NVS-215

A Subsidiary of **FREIGHTLINER**
LLC

September 14, 2005

2005 SEP 14 A 11: 12

Recall (FL-454) 05V-340, 05V-347

Dear Thomas Bus Owner,

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Thomas Built Buses, Inc. has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in the vehicle identified on the enclosed postcard (Form PSD 304).

This recall involves certain Thomas Built Minotour, Conventional, MVP-ER, HDX, and MVP-EF school buses manufactured from January 2002 through March 2005 equipped with a Specialty Manufacturing Co. 5-series stop arm.

Specialty Manufacturing Co. notified Thomas Built Buses that certain school bus stop arms contain a defect that may prevent the stop arm from operating in extremely cold weather. Under certain conditions the microswitches used internally to position the sign in the open and closed positions may malfunction, causing the sign to open or close to an improper position, or to not open at all. Also, it has been determined that the heater section may not be connected in the proper manner. Should the stop arm not perform properly, a child or pedestrian may be endangered by passing vehicles.

You should immediately contact your Thomas Built Buses dealer for an appointment to have your vehicle modified if you own or operate this school bus in these states:

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

If the school bus is operated in the remaining states, you may still obtain the free remedy upon request. If your school buses are to be driven in cold weather, you should obtain the free remedy prior to the trip.

Thomas Built Buses will remedy this defect without charge. It will take approximately 20 minutes per unit. To arrange for repairs, contact your local Thomas Built Buses dealer. After the repair is made, please complete each postage paid card separately and return it to Thomas Built Buses to verify completion.

In addition to being used to verify repair completion, the postcard must be completed and returned if the vehicle does not need repair, if you no longer own the vehicle, or the vehicle identified on the postcard has been exported, stolen, or destroyed/totaled. Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving the recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

If the defect is not remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, please contact the Customer Support Office at (336)-889-4871, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time Monday through Friday, e-mail address Tracy.Sauerbrey@Thomasbus.com. You may also submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th Street S. W., Washington, DC 20590, or phone 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153) or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may notify the Manager, Recall and Public Compliance, Road and Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety Branch, Transport Canada, Ottawa, Ontario or phone (613)-993-9851.

Sincerely,
Tracy Sauerbrey
Customer Support Division

/ts Enclosures Postcard