



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

JAN 20 2006

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

MR. TIMOTHY BLUBAUGH  
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL AFFAIRS  
FREIGHTLINER LLC  
4747 NORTH CHANNEL AVENUE  
PORTLAND OR 97217-7699

NVS-215kjs  
06V-014

Subject: STEERING CONTROL

Dear MR. BLUBAUGH:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/HDX/2006

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 06V-014

**Mfg's Report Date:** January 6, 2006

**Components:**  
SUSPENSION:FRONT

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 360

**Summary:**  
CERTAIN 2006 THOMAS BUILT HDX SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JULY AND NOVEMBER 2005. THE FRONT SPRING EYES MAY CRACK FROM EMBRITTLEMENT DUE TO AN IMPROPER HEAT TREAT PROCESS.

**Consequence:**  
VEHICLE STEERING CONTROL MAY BE REDUCED IF ABNORMAL FRONT SUSPENSION NOISES ARE IGNORED, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN A CRASH AND PERSONAL INJURY.

**Remedy:**

THOMAS BUILT WILL NOTIFY ITS OWNERS AND REPAIR THE STEERING SUSPENSIONS FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 20, 2006.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY 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).

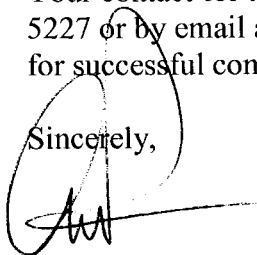
The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following item:

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 February 20, 2006. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before April 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](mailto: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