



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

APR 27 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-136

Subject: ELECTRICAL FIRE

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/EF/2004-2006
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/FS-65/2004-2006
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/HDX/2004-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 06V-136

Mfg's Report Date: April 21, 2006

Components:

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:FUSES AND CIRCUIT BREAKERS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 11,666

Summary:

CERTAIN MY 2004 THROUGH 2006 THOMAS BUILT HDX, EF, AND FS-65 SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN OCTOBER 4, 2004, AND FEBRUARY 14, 2006. THE BODY POWER DISTRIBUTION MODULE (PDM) WAS MANUFACTURED WITH COPPER CIRCUITS THAT ARE TOO THIN FOR THE ELECTRICAL LOADS ENCOUNTERED, POSSIBLY CAUSING THE BOARD TO OVERHEAT.

Consequence:

IF THE PDM OVERHEATS IT MAY GENERATE SMOKE AND COULD RESULT IN A FIRE.

Remedy:

THOMAS BUILT WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND WILL REPLACE THE PDM'S THIN COPPER CIRCUITS WITH THICKER COPPER CIRCUITS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON JUNE 30, 2006. OWNERS MAY CONTACT THOMAS BUILT AT 1-877-660-4938.

Notes:

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-475. 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).

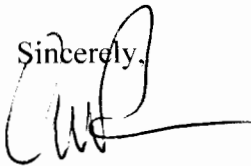
Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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, Freightliner is required to notify purchasers, dealers, and distributors in accordance with 49 CFR Part 577 and must submit a representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications 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 June 30, 2006. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due in this office on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

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