



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

NOV - 8 2006

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

NVS-215kjs  
06V-422

Subject: STEERING COLUMN FLOOR SEAL

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/MVP-EF/2004-2006

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 06V-422

**Mfg's Report Date:** October 26, 2006

**Components:**

STEERING:COLUMN

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 2,300

**Summary:**

CERTAIN MY 2004 THROUGH 2006 THOMAS BUILT MVP-EF SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 27, 2004, AND SEPTEMBER 10, 2006. THE STEERING COLUMN FLOOR SEAL FORMS A WELL AROUND THE COLUMN AT THE FLOOR. DEBRIS, SUCH AS LOOSE FASTENERS, MAY GET TRAPPED IN THE SEAL WELL, POTENTIALLY CAUSING THE STEERING TO BIND.

**Consequence:**

IF THE STEERING COLUMN SHOULD BIND, VEHICLE STEERING MAY BE RESTRICTED, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN A VEHICLE CRASH WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING.

**Remedy:**

THOMAS BUILT WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPAIR THE SEAL WITH A NEW DESIGN FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 5, 2007. OWNERS MAY CONTACT THOMAS BUILT AT 336-889-4871 OR OWNERS MAY CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 800-547-0712.

**Notes:**

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO FL-482. 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).

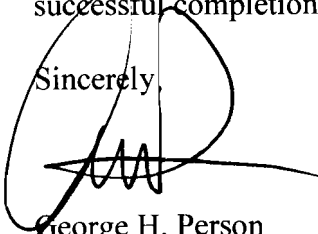
Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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, 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 required 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 January 5, 2007. 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 [Kelly.schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.schuler@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