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Defect Information Report
(Section 573.6)

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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
LITIGATION DIVISION

April 21, 2006

(c)(1) **Manufacturer:** Freightliner LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

06V-136
(2pgs.)

Brands: Thomas Built Buses

(c)(2) **Vehicles identification:**

Model(s) affected: HDX, EF, FS-65 buses

Manufacture Dates: October 4, 2004 to February 14, 2006.

Basis for determining population: First and last vehicle built with defective Power Distribution Module

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Tyco Electronics
3800 Reidsville Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27102
Gary R. Marpoe, Director, Engineering

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** 11,666

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

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** The body Power Distribution Module (PDM) was manufactured with copper circuits that are too thin for the electrical loads encountered, possibly caused the board to overheat.

49 CFR Sec. 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: If the PDM overheats it may generate smoke and could later ignite a fire.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** Freightliner and Thomas Built Bus were notified by field reports in October 2005 concerning failures of the PDM from overheating. Thomas Bus measured circuit loads on customer buses in December 2005 and found them to be within specification. It was found in January 2006 that multiple thermal circuit breakers, which are clustered together on the PDM, together with heat generated from the PDM, can generate enough heat to melt the PDM. Buses with multiple under seat heaters have such a configuration. In February 2006, Thomas Bus discovered a reduction in the copper circuit thickness on current PDM boards compared to boards in older Tyco PDMs. Tyco changed production back to "thick copper" circuit boards on February 14, 2006. In April 2006 Tyco performed thermal image tests that showed the thin PDM circuit boards to operate at a significantly higher operating temperature than the earlier circuit boards, with thicker copper, under the same conditions.

(c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** not applicable

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** PDMs with thin copper circuits will be replaced with new PDMs having the thicker copper circuits. Thermal circuit breakers will be replaced with non-thermal breakers or fuses. The program for correction will be to notify each vehicle owner. Repairs will be performed by the Freightliner or Thomas Built dealer at no charge to the owner, or by customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs.

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 June 30, 2006

Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (9) Communications sent to dealers and owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.

(c) (11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-475