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(2 pages)

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
PREVENTION

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October 25, 2006

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Information Report FL-482, Steering Column Floor Seal

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 2,300 Thomas Built buses, manufactured from September 2004 through September 2006 for a defective steering column floor seal.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
enclosure
CERTIFIED MAIL#70023150000414054295



A DaimlerChrysler Company

Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

October 26, 2006

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

Brands: Thomas Built Buses

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: MVP-EF buses

Manufacture Dates: September 27, 2004 to September 10, 2006.

Basis for determining population: First and last vehicle built with the defective seal.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: n/a

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 2,300

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: 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.

49 CFR Sec. 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: If the steering column should bind, vehicle steering may possibly be restricted, resulting in a vehicle crash without prior warning.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: Thomas Built Bus received driver reports in early September, 2006 of steering binding on two buses. The driver corrected the problem by forcefully working the steering wheel back and forth, clearing the debris. Disassembly revealed a loose screw laying in the seal well had wedged against the steering column yoke.

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

(c)(8) Remedial program: The seal will be replaced with a new design. The program for correction will be to notify each vehicle owner. Repairs will be performed by the Freightliner or Thomas Built dealers 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 January 5, 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-482