



U.S. Department
of Transportation

FEB 16 2007

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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

NVS-215kjs
07V-040

Subject: PLASTIC ZIP TIES/WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

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/MINOTOUR/2006-2007

NHTSA Campaign Number: 07V-040

Mfg's Report Date: February 5, 2007

Components:

EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 350

Summary:

CERTAIN MY 2006 AND 2007 THOMAS BUILT MINOTOUR SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2005, AND NOVEMBER 1, 2006, EQUIPPED WITH A WHEELCHAIR LIFT OPTION. PLASTIC ZIP TIES FOUND AROUND THE WHEELCHAIR LIFT INTERLOCK SWITCHES MAY PREVENT THE SWITCH FROM OPERATING, DEFEATING THE INTERLOCK FUNCTION ALLOWING THE VEHICLE TO BE DRIVEN WITH THE LIFT STILL DEPLOYED.

Consequence:

THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED THE AGENCY WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSEQUENCE AS IT RELATES TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY.

Remedy:

FREIGHTLINER WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND INSPECT THE BUSES. ANY PLASTIC TIES FOUND ON THE SWITCHES WILL BE REMOVED. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MARCH 2007. OWNERS CAN CONTACT FREIGHTLINER CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE CENTER AT 800-385-4357.

Notes:

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-490. 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 recall is the result of an investigation, PE06-049, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

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 during March 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. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement