



**07V-040**  
**(2 pages)**

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS

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February 5, 2007

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-490, Plastic Zip Ties Found on Wheel chair Interlock Switches**

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 350 Thomas Built Bus Minotour school buses found to have plastic zip ties around the wheelchair lift interlock switch.

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#70023150000414054509



A DaimlerChrysler Company

## Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

January 30, 2007

**(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:** Minotour School Bus

**Model Years affected:** 2006, 2007

**Manufacture Dates:** July 1, 2005 through November 1, 2006

**Basis for determining population:** Buses built with a wheel chair lift option

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:** N/A

**(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** approximately 350

**(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 10%

**(c)(5) Description of the defect:** Plastic zip ties were found around wheel chair lift interlock switches. The zip tie may prevent the switch from operating, defeating the interlock function.

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** Defeating the wheel chair lift interlock switch allows the bus to be driven with the lift still deployed.

**(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:** Several customer buses in one fleet were found with plastic zip ties around wheel chair interlock switches. The origination of the plastic tie is not clear, though Thomas Bus uses them on the Minotour model bus to protect the switch during the vehicle assembly process. Use of a plastic tie for this purpose is unique to the Minotour model assembly procedure.

**(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data:** N/A

**(c)(8) Remedial program:** The vehicles will be inspected and any zip ties found on the switches will be removed. Repairs will be performed by Freightliner Dealerships and Direct Warranty customers.

**Estimated Owner Notification Date:** Customer notification will be by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately March 30, 2007

**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-490