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07V-137
(2 pages)

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March 16, 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-493, Thomas Built Bus HDX Brake Pedal

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 3,000 Thomas Built school buses, manufactured from April 2000 through November 2003 for a defect in the brake pedal assembly.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Nasser Zamani

cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
enclosure
CERTIFIED MAIL#70023150000414054578



A DaimlerChrysler Company

Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

March 16, 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: HDX, MVP-ER buses
Manufacture Dates: April 23, 2000 to November 14, 2003.
Basis for determining population: All subject buses using brake push rod part 62170402.
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: N/A

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 3,000

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: The service air brake pedal, for both non-adjustable and adjustable brake pedals, may contact the front structure on certain school buses, limiting the maximum brake force available.

49 CFR Sec. 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Insufficient air brake pressure may cause extended stopping distances without prior warning, resulting in a vehicle crash. There are no reports of accidents or injuries.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: A DOT inspection 1/30/07 at a school bus fleet revealed pedal contact with the front structure before full brake pressure was achieved if the pedals were adjusted to the full forward position. An investigation by Thomas bus showed the issue may also exist on buses with non-adjustable pedals.

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

(c)(8) Remedial program: The pedal push rod will be replaced with a longer one. The program for correction will be to notify each vehicle owner. Repairs will be performed by 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 April 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-493