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(2 pages)**

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May 18, 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-496, TBB Warning Light Malfunction**

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 11,359, Thomas Built Buses, Saf-T-Liner C2 buses manufactured December 1, 2003 through current production with a defect in the warning lights.

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# 7002 3150 0004 1405 0976



## Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

May 18, 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:** Saf-T-Liner C2

**Model Years affected:** 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008

**Manufacture Dates:** 12/01/2003 - current

**Basis for determining population:** All Saf-T-Liner C2 buses built since start of production

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:** Unknown

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 11,359

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

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** On affected vehicles the warning lights may stop functioning unexpectedly if the front entrance door closes without driver's input.

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** Failure of the warning lights to remain on during the loading or unloading process could put students at risk of injury or death.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** In December 2006 Thomas Bus received a complaint linking erratic entrance door operation to a potential malfunction of the warning lights. Investigation into the root cause of erratic entrance door operation continues. Preliminary evaluations indicate a switch malfunction or loss of continuity between the switch and the control mechanism.

(c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** None

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Repairs will be performed by Thomas Bus dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Thomas Bus to do their own warranty repairs. Estimated dealer notification date is approximately July 16, 2007. Pending validation of permanent solution, dealers should refer to PSB C2 - 2 - 12 when erratic door operation is suspected.

**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 July 16, 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- 496