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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

July 18, 2007

07V-326
(5 Pages)

Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
Recall Management Division,
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Fax: (alternate) 202-366-1767
Pages: 5 (Including this one)

Dear Daniel Smith,

Enclosed is a Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report describing an equipment defect affecting buses manufactured by DaimlerChrysler Commercial Buses North America.

Attached:

Part 573 - DCCBNA - Exhaust Elbow.pdf

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Joe Labonte
Compliance and Safety Officer
350 Hazelhurst Road
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada,
L5J 4T8
Work: (905) 403-7807
FAX: (905) 403-8808

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On July 18, 2006 , DaimlerChrysler Commercial Buses North America Inc. (DCCBNA) decided that a safety related defect exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: July 18, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): TBD

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

DaimlerChrysler Commercial Buses North America Inc.

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Joe Labonte

Compliance and Safety Officer

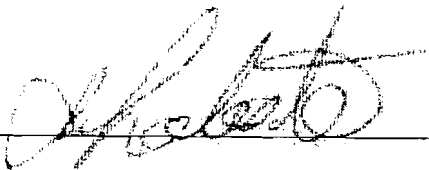
Telephone Number: (905) 403-7807 Fax No.: (905)403-8808

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Joe Labonte

Compliance and Safety Officer

Signed:



I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Orion Model Years Involved: 2004 - 2007 Model(s): VII

Production Dates: Beginning: November 2004 Ending: June 2007

VIN Range: Only certain vehicles are affected.

Vehicle Type: Bus Bodystyle: VII

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Vehicle model Orion VII configured with a Cummins ISL engine.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

6%

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
<u>VII</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>VII</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>VII</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>VII</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>24</u>

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 96

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Not determined. Less than 100%.

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

Vehicle model Orion VII configured with exhaust elbow part number 070774434 used with the ISL engine. All production of this part used in this application ending with buses shipped after June 2007. Buses shipped after this date have a properly manufactured exhaust pipe.

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The manufacturer of the exhaust elbow incorrectly assembled and welded a flange. The upper flange has a butt type weld. The correctly manufactured exhaust pipe has a fillet type weld.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The wrong forming of the mating transition section of the pipe lead to a connection that could only be butt welded and insufficient material to create the required fillet type weld. Only the ISL engine application relies on this connection.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

An exhaust system that is not maintained to ensure that there are no leaking sections can cause heat damage to surrounding components.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Loud exhaust noise can be heard.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Hydraulic Tubes & Fittings LLC

352 Industrial Park Dr Ste 4

Imlay City, MI , 48444-1370

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Steve Lomakoski, Vice President

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

1/17/2007 broken exhaust found following a visit of a bus at PART having had a fire.

1/25/2007 Report of five broken exhaust elbows at TTC.

Subsequent warranty claims review.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

N/A. This is not a noncompliance matter.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

The exhaust elbow will be replaced with a properly manufactured one.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The elbow will have a fillet type weld at the first upper transition and not a butt type weld.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

As of all exhaust elbows, part number 070774434 are correctly manufactured

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

DCCBNA will send a notice to the two customers explaining the defect and that arrangements will be made to have the hose replaced.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

A copy of the notice(s) will be provided.