



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 27, 2008

MR. NASSER ZAMANI
MANAGER, COMPLIANCE AND
REGULATORY AFFAIRS
DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA
4747 N. CHANNEL AVENUE
PORTLAND OR 97217-3849

NVS-215kjs
08V-087

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR HANDLE

DEAR MR. ZAMANI:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Trucks North America's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the vehicles described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

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/ER/2001-2008
THOMAS/MVP EF/2001-2008
THOMAS/MVP ER/2001-2008
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/FS-65/2001-2008
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/HDX/2001-2008
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/MINOTOUR/2001-2008
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER C2/2001-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-087

Mfg's Report Date: February 21, 2008

Components: STRUCTURE:BODY:DOOR:HINGE AND ATTACHMENTS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 93,552

Summary:

DAIMLER TRUCKS IS RECALLING 93,552 MY 2001-2008 THOMAS BUILT SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2000 AND MARCH 10, 2008. THE EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR HANDLE BEGINS CORRODING AROUND THE SECURING ROLL PIN AND SQUARE DRIVE MECHANISM CAUSING THE PROTECTIVE FINISH TO CHIP AND FLAKE. CONTINUED CORROSION AND PITTING WEAKENS THE HANDLE. HANDLES WEAKENED BY CORROSION MAY BREAK WHILE TRYING TO OPEN THE DOOR FROM THE EXTERIOR.

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, A PERSON ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE BUS MAY BREAK THE DOOR HANDLE TRYING TO OPEN THE EMERGENCY EXIT POTENTIALLY DELAYING EVACUATION AND INCREASING THE RISK OF PERSONAL INJURY TO THE VEHICLE'S OCCUPANTS.

Remedy:

DAIMLER TRUCKS WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND WILL REPLACE THE HANDLES WITH A MORE ROBUST HANDLE FREE OF CHARGE. REPAIRS WILL BE PERFORMED BY THOMAS BUILT BUSES DEALERSHIPS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT MAY 2, 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT THOMAS BUILT AT 336-889-4871.

Notes:

DAIMLER TRUCKS RECALL NO. FL-525. 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).

This recall was the subject of an investigation, PE07-054, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

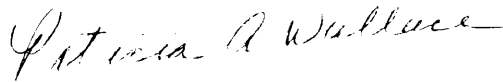
The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

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. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due 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, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for the successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



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