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OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

DAIMLER

08V-087
(3 pages)

February 21, 2008



Daimler Trucks North America
Nasser Zamani
Manager
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Information Report FL-525, TBB Emergency Exit Door Handle

Mr. Smith

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Daimler Trucks North America LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 93,552, Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner C2, FS-65, MVP-EF, ER, MVP-ER, HDX, and Minotour vehicles manufactured between November 2000 and March 2008, with a defect in the emergency exit door handle.

Attached is Daimler Trucks North America's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nasser Zamani'.

Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7003 2260 0001 3403 6845

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
4747 N. Channel Avenue
Portland OR 97217-7699
503-745-6910 Phone
503-745-5544 Fax
NasserZamani@Freightliner.com

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Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

Date: February 21, 2008

(c)(1) **Manufacturer:** Daimler Trucks North America 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, FS-65, MVP-EF, ER, MVP-ER, HDX, Minotour

Model Years affected: 2001 through 2008

Manufacture Dates: November, 2000 through March 10, 2008

Basis for determining population: A design change in November 2000 revised the corners in the attachment socket from a small radius to square corner.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

TTE Casting Technologies Incorporated
1017 Alvin Weinberg Drive
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830
(865) 482-7778

RPM Engineering
1616 Centerville Turnpike
Suite 209
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 93,552

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 100%

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** Exterior 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 handle. Handles weakened by corrosion over time may break while trying to open the door from the exterior.



Typical Handle Location

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49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: 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.

- (c)(6) Chronology of principal events:** Door handle PN 64007138 was released in April 2000. A design change in November 2000 revised the corners in the attachment socket from a small radius to square corner.
- (c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data:** Not Applicable
- (c)(8) Remedial program:** Aluminum handles will be replaced with a more robust handle. Repairs will be performed by Thomas Built Buses dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Daimler Trucks North America to do their own warranty repairs.

Estimated Dealer Notification Date: Approximately May 2, 2008.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately May 2, 2008.

Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

- (c)(9) Information for tire recalls:** Not Applicable
- (c)(10) Communications sent to dealers and owners:** Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.
- (c)(11) Copy of proposed owner notification letter:** A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.
- (c)(12) Manufacturer's campaign number:** FL-525