

DAIMLER



Daimler Trucks North America
Nasser Zamani
Manager
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

July 28, 2008

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Information Report FL-534, TBB MVP-ER Alternator Cable

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 3,420 Thomas Built Buses MVP-ER vehicles equipped with 3116 and 3126 Caterpillar Engines, manufactured June 8, 1995 through February 16, 2001 with a defect in the alternator cable routing.

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

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7004 2890 0004 1202 2120

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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

Date: July 28, 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: MVP-ER

Model Years affected: 1996 through 2002

Manufacture Dates: June 8, 1995 through February 16, 2001

Basis for determining population: MVP-ER units built with Caterpillar 3116 and 3126 engines.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not applicable

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 3,420

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: Un-fused power cables were tie-wrapped to a wire-braid engine fuel return hose. Over time these cables may chafe, wearing through the wire loom and eventually through the cable insulation and fuel line covering in an area not easily detectable during normal maintenance without removing tie wraps and opening the wire loom. Un-fused un-switched power cables which wear through and contact the fuel line wire-braid may short circuit.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: In the event of a short circuit there is a potential for a thermal event.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: September 2007 Thermal event reported. Investigation by TBB of potentially affected population completed July 2008.

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

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: Cables will be inspected and replaced as necessary. Alternator power cable will be separated from fuel return hose. Power cables will be secured to valve cover. Repairs will be performed by Thomas Built Buses dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Thomas Built Buses to do their own warranty repairs
Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(ii) Estimated Owner and Dealer Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Thomas Built Buses records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately September 19, 2008.
Dealer notification will be completed approximately September 19, 2008.

(c)(9) Information for tire recalls: Not Applicable

(c)(10) Communications sent to manufacturers, dealers and owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-534