



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 27, 2009

MR. JOE LABONTE
PRODUCT SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER
DAIMLER BUSES NORTH AMERICA
350 HAZELHURST ROAD,
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5J4T8

NVS-215dgl
09V-099

Subject: SEAT HEATER CONFIGURATION

Dear MR. LABONTE:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Buses North America's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

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:
ORION/VII/2006-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-099

Mfg's Report Date: March 23, 2009

Components: SEATS: FRONT ASSEMBLY: SEAT HEATER/COOLER

Potential Number of Units Affected: 804

Summary:

DAIMLER BUS IS RECALLING 804 MY 2006-2009 TRANSIT BUSES EQUIPPED WITH A NEW YORK CUSTOM SEAT HEATER. CURRENTLY, THE TERMINAL CONNECTION OF THE SEAT HEATER IS IMMEDIATELY LOCATED NEXT TO THE SEAT BUS BAR. SHOULD CONDUCTIVE MATERIAL OR DEBRIS, SUCH AS A WASHER, ENTER BETWEEN THE TERMINAL CONNECTION AND THE SEAT BUS BAR, A SHORT CIRCUIT COULD OCCUR.

Consequence:

A SHORT CIRCUIT BETWEEN THE SEAT BUS BAR AND THE ADJACENT TERMINAL CONNECTION COULD OVERHEAT THE WIRE, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN A FIRE.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT BUSES FOR DEBRIS AND THE TERMINAL CONNECTION IMMEDIATELY NEXT TO THE SEAT BUS BAR IS BEING RELOCATED AWAY FROM THE BUS BAR. THIS SERVICE WILL BE PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING APRIL 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT DAIMLER BUSES AT 905-403-7807.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO 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).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

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).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

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 contacts for this recall will be Delia Lopez or Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525 or 202-366-5227, or by email at Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Schuler for". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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