



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 31, 2009

DAVID M MIHALICK
STANDARDS COMPLIANCE MANAGER
THOR INDUSTRIES, INC.
419 WEST PIKE STREET
PO BOX 629
JACKSON CENTER, OH 45334-0629

NVS-215gl
09V-313

SUBJECT: HYDRAULIC BRAKE FLUID LEAK

DEAR MR. MIHALICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Champion Bus' 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:

CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2004-2005
CHAMPION/DEFENDER/2007
CHAMPION/M1000/2005-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-313

Mfg's Report Date: July 27, 2009

Components: SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC: FOUNDATION COMPONENTS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 36

Summary:

CHAMPION BUS IS RECALLING 36 MODEL YEAR 2004, 2005, AND 2007 DEFENDER AND MODEL YEAR 2005-2006 M1000 BUSES BUILT BETWEEN APRIL 12, 2004 AND SEPTEMBER 18, 2006. CERTAIN HYDRAULIC BRAKE LINES MAY CONTACT THE TRANSMISSION DIPSTICK TUBE AS THE ENGINE ROCKS.

Consequence:

CONTINUED CONTACT BETWEEN THE BRAKE LINE AND THE DIPSTICK TUBE COULD CAUSE A BRAKE FLUID LEAK AND REDUCE BRAKE PERFORMANCE, POTENTIALLY RESULTING IN A CRASH WITHOUT WARNING.

Remedy:

DAIMLER TRUCKS IS HANDLING THE OWNER NOTIFICATION AND REMEDY FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. PLEASE SEE 09V-114. DAIMLER TRUCKS WILL CORRECT THE CHASSIS IF FOUND TO BE DEFECTIVE. THIS SERVICE WILL BE PERFORMED FOR YOU FREE OF CHARGE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT DAIMLER TRUCKS AT 1-800-547-0712.

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).

This recall was the subject of a Preliminary Evaluation, PE09-004, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

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

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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 your report, Daimler Trucks will be handling the owner notification, remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Daimler Trucks' campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GP' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

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