

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On March 23, 2009, Daimler Buses North America Inc. (Daimler Buses) decided that a safety related defect exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: March 23, 2009

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): TBD

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Daimler Buses North America Inc.

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Joe Labonte

Product Safety and Compliance Officer

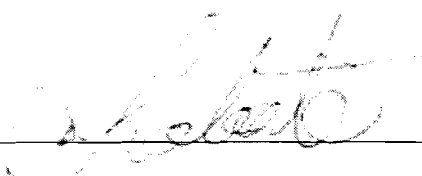
Telephone Number: (905) 403-7807 Fax No.: (905)403-8808

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Joe Labonte

Product Safety and Compliance Officer

Signed:



I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Orion Model Years Involved: 2006 - 2009 Model(s): VII

Production Dates: Beginning: July 2006 Ending: March 2009

VIN Range: Only certain vehicles are affected.

Vehicle Type: Bus Bodystyle: VII

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Vehicle model Orion VII configured with a New York custom seat heater.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

7%

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
<u>VII</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>212</u>
<u>VII</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>288</u>
<u>VII</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>161</u>
<u>VII</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>143</u>

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Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 804

4. **Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:** 0.5%.

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

Vehicle model Orion VII sold to New York City having a certain seat heater configuration.

5. **Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

The seat heater bus bar was found with arant washer lodged behind the bus bar and short circuited to an adjacent terminal.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The arant washer was not retrieved during assembly.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

When the washer comes in contact with the adjacent terminal and short circuits to the bus bar the adjacent terminal circuit overheats the wire.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

A washer or any other conducting debris can be found behind the bus bar.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

N/A

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

N/A

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. **With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

A bus fire in the driver's electrical cabinet Bus number 3932, New York, Incident date 1-13-2009

A bus fire in the driver's electrical cabinet, Bus 3984 Staten Island. Incident date 3-14-2009.

A service inspection of New York Orion VII fleet having a drivers seat heater was conducted in March 2009.

7. **With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.**

This is not a noncompliance.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

All potentially affected buses are being inspected for debris. The terminal connection immediately next to the seat bus bar is being relocated away from the bus bar. A nonconductive debris stop prevents materials from entering behind the bus bar.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The terminal connection immediately next to the seat bus bar is being relocated away from the bus bar. A nonconductive debris stop prevents materials from entering behind the bus bar.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.
In March 2009, the terminal connection immediately next to the seat bus bar is being relocated away from the bus bar. This is identical to the correction in production.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Daimler Buses have been inspected for debris on all buses at New York, order numbers 1289 and 1325.

Correction as above is pending instructions and material availability.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

A copy of a notice(s) will be provided.
