

Daimler Trucks North America
Nasser Zamani
Senior Manager
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

October 1, 2009

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-562, SMI Stop Arm LED


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 2,922 Thomas Built Buses school buses manufactured March 31, 2008 through February 18, 2009 and equipped with Specialty Manufacturing, Inc. stop arms which may contain a defect in the wiring of the arm's LED.

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# 7002 3150 0004 1405 4981

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

October 1, 2009

(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, Saf-T-Liner HDX, Saf-T-Liner MVP-EF and Minotour

Model Years affected: 2009 - 2010

Manufacture Dates: School Buses manufactured 3/31/08 through 2/18/09

Basis for determining population: Thomas Built Buses' usage of specific Stop Arm models as determined by Specialty Manufacturing Inc.

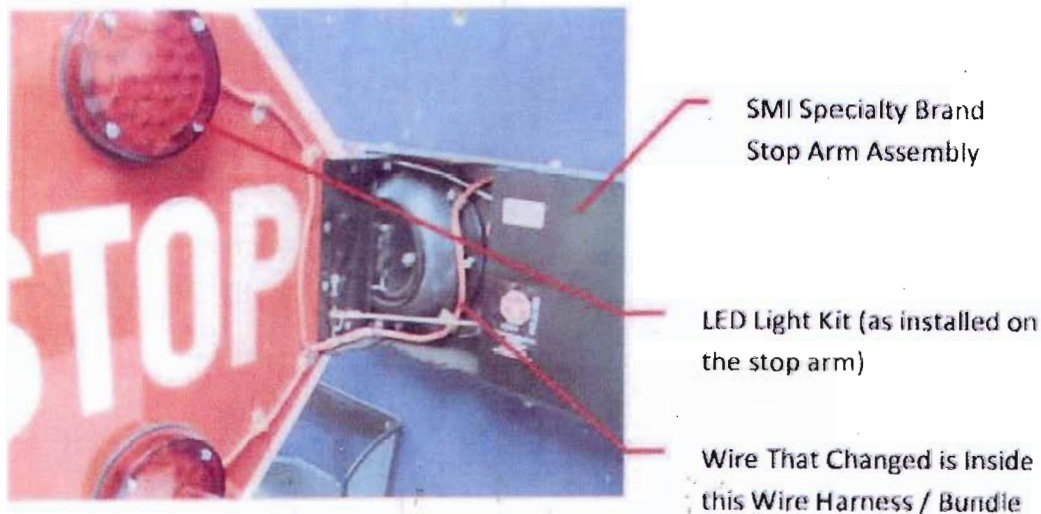
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Specialty Manufacturing, Inc
10200 Pineville Rd.
Pineville, NC 28134
Attn: Rusty Cloninger
(704)889-7518 ext. 3028

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 2,922 (2,328 - Saf-T-Liner C2, 236 - Saf-T-Liner HDX, 258 - Saf-T-Liner MVP – EF, 100 – Minotour)

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: Per Specialty Manufacturing – A sub-supplier wiring cable change may cause separation of wires which renders the LED lights inoperable. SMI describes the defect as premature LED failures due to a wiring fault. The lights may stop functioning without warning reducing the visibility of a stopped bus. For additional information see NHTSA recall 09E-040.



49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Reduced visibility during the loading or unloading process could put students at risk of injury.

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- (c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** July 15, 2009 - Thomas Built Buses' purchasing department received a letter notifying them of Specialty Manufacturing, Inc's decision to recall the subject components
- (c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** Not Applicable
- (c)(8) **(i) Remedial program:** Potentially affected vehicles will be inspected to determine if they contain light kits within the suspect date range. Light kits within the suspect date range will be replaced. 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 December 4, 2009
Dealer notification will be completed approximately December 4, 2009
- (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-562