

Daimler Trucks North America LLC

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
P.O. Box 4090
Portland, OR 97208-4090
800.547.0712 Phone
503.745.9009 Fax

October 2009
FL554A-I
NHTSA #09V-355

Subject: TRW IGEN 3 Steering Shaft Welds

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. This notice is also sent in accordance with the Canadian Motor Vehicles Safety Act.

Daimler Trucks North America LLC, on behalf of its Freightliner Trucks Division, and its wholly owned subsidiary, Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Freightliner Business Class M2 vehicles and Freightliner Custom Chassis B2 school bus chassis (Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner C2) and S2 shuttle bus chassis manufactured April 21, 2009, through July 6, 2009, with certain TRW steering shafts.

A weld on certain TRW IGEN 3 steering shafts that secures the spline tube to the intermediate tube may be mislocated (i.e., not fully over the seam created when the tubes are pressed together). An improperly located weld bead has the potential to reduce the ultimate torsional and axial load capacity of the joint below acceptable levels. A failed steering shaft could cause loss of vehicle control and result in a possible vehicle crash.

The welds will be inspected. If the weld is found to be improperly located, the steering shaft will be replaced.

When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number **FL554A-I**. Once kit(s) are received at the dealership, the Recall will take up to approximately an hour, depending on the work needed, and will be performed at no charge to you. Please note, the need to replace a steering shaft cannot be determined until your vehicle is inspected at the dealership, and parts may need to be ordered at that time.

When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number **FL554A-I**. Once kit(s) are received at the dealership, the Recall will take up to approximately an hour, depending on the work needed, and will be performed at no charge to you.

IMPORTANT: When the Recall has been completed, please ensure that a label has been affixed to your vehicle referencing **FL554A-I**.

If you do not own the vehicle that corresponds to the identification number(s) which appears on the Recall Notification, please return the notification to the Warranty Campaigns Department with any information you can furnish that will assist us in locating the present owner. If you have leased this vehicle, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to the lessee within 10 days. If you are a subsequent stage manufacturer, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to your distributors and retail outlets within five working days. If you have paid to have this recall condition corrected prior to this notice, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement. Please see the reverse side of this notice for details.

If you are not able to have the defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, please contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, e-mail address DTNA.Warranty.Campaigns@Daimler.com, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or to <http://www.safercar.gov>. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may wish to notify Transport Canada, ASFAD, Place de Ville Tower C, 330 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5, or phone (800) 333-0510.

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause but feel certain you understand our interest in motor vehicle safety.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

Reimbursement to Customers for Repairs Performed Prior to Recall

If you have already **paid** to have this recall condition corrected you may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

Requests for reimbursement may include parts and labor. Reimbursement may be limited to the amount the repair would have cost if completed by an authorized Daimler Trucks North America LLC dealer. The following documentation must be presented to your dealer for consideration for reimbursement.

Please provide original or clear copies of all receipts, invoices, and repair orders that show:

- The name and address of the person who paid for the repair.
- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the vehicle that was repaired.
- What problem occurred, what repair was done, when the repair was done.
- Who repaired the vehicle.
- The total cost of the repair expense that is being claimed.
- Proof of payment for the repair (such as the front and back of a cancelled check or a credit card receipt).

Reimbursement will be made by check from your Daimler Trucks North America LLC dealer.

Please speak with your Daimler Trucks North America LLC authorized dealer concerning this matter.