



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 13, 2010

MS. LISA CARRIVEAU
WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR
H. A. DEHART & SONS
311 CROWN POINT ROAD
THOROFARE, NJ 08086

NVS-215kjs
10V-142

SUBJECT: SEAT CUSHION LOCKING MECHANISM

DEAR MS. CARRIVEAU:

This letter serves to acknowledge H. A. Dehart & Sons' notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 222, "School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection," for which a safety recall campaign was conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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:

THOMAS BUILT/161TS/2010-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 10V-142 **Mfg's Report Date:** April 7, 2010

Components: SEATS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 4

Summary:

H. A. DEHART HAS NOTIFIED NHTSA ABOUT A NONCOMPLIANCE IN CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2010 AND 2011 THOMAS BUILT 161TS MODEL SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED ON FEBRUARY 24, 2010. THE SEAT CUSHION LOCKING MECHANISMS WERE MISALIGNED DURING VEHICLE ASSEMBLY. THIS ERROR RENDERS THE SCHOOL BUSES NONCOMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 222, "SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER SEATING AND CRASH PROTECTION."

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, THE SEAT CUSHION COULD DETACH FROM THE SEAT, INCREASING THE RISK OF INJURY TO THE BUS OCCUPANTS.

Remedy:

ALL THE BUSES HAVE BEEN REPAIRED. THEREFORE AN OWNER NOTIFICATION LETTER WILL NOT BE ISSUED FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. OWNERS MAY CONTACT H. A. DEHART TOLL-FREE AT 1-800-222-0271.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY 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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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

It is our understanding that all the buses have been repaired. Please file one quarterly report for the recall file reflecting a 100 percent completion.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. H. Person" with a stylized flourish and the word "for" written below it.

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