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By Recall Mgt Div. at 7:31 am, Feb 23, 2010

10V-058
(5 pages)

DAIMLER

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

February 15, 2010

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-571, IMMI Flip-up Seat Cushion

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 100 Thomas Built Buses school bus models manufactured October 21, 2009, through January 19, 2010, and equipped with Indiana Mills Manufacturing Inc. flip-up seat cushions with a defect which allows the seat cushion to unlatch unintentionally.

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#

7003 2260 0001 3403 7156

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
4747 N. Channel Avenue
Portland OR 97217-7699
503-745-6910 Phone
503-745-5544 Fax
Nasser.Zamani@Daimler.com

DAIMLER

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

Date: February 15, 2010

(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, HDX, MVP-EF, and Minotour school buses

Model Years affected: 2011

Manufacture Dates: October 21, 2009 through January 19, 2010

Basis for determining population: Vehicles produced October 21, 2009 through January 19, 2010, and equipped with specific IMMI seats with flip-up bottom seat cushions.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Indiana Mills Manufacturing Inc. (IMMI)

PO Box 408, Westfield, Indiana 46074

Attn: James Johnson, Corporate Director of Sales

Phone (317) 867-8143

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 100

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 100%

(c)(5) Description of the defect or noncompliance: Seat cushion hinge tolerance may allow the cushion to slip laterally causing the latch striker to become disengaged from the seat frame. Once the seat cushion becomes unlatched it can be lifted with less force than required by FMVSS 222.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: In the event of a crash or sudden maneuver the seat cushion may unlatch exposing the seat frame to the vehicle's occupants increasing the risk of personal injury.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: TBB identified seat cushions that failed to stay latched on January 18, 2010 and notified IMMI. January 19 – February 1, IMMI developed and implemented solution for all on-hand units and notified NHTSA of potential noncompliance in school bus application (see attached IMMI letter to Mr. Daniel C. Smith).

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: None

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: A guide bracket limiting lateral movement will be added to each potentially affected seat. 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 Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately April 17, 2010

Dealer notification will be completed approximately April 17, 2010

(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-571



Bringing Safety to People™

February 1, 2010

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Apparent Noncompliance with FMVSS No. 222

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing to inform you that Indiana Mills & Manufacturing, Inc. (IMMI), a manufacturer of seats used in school buses, has discovered a manufacturing concern that causes school buses equipped with certain of the seats that it manufactured between October 6, 2009 and January 25, 2010 to not comply with one of the performance requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 222, "School bus passenger seating and crash protection." Although FMVSS No. 222 applies only to school buses and not the seats themselves – and therefore IMMI is not required to submit a noncompliance information report to NHTSA pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573 – IMMI wants to bring this matter to your attention.

IMMI has discovered that the seat cushion retention locking mechanism in certain of its school bus seats can be misaligned. If the mechanism is misaligned, the seat will not meet the new seat cushion retention requirements specified in S5.1.5 of FMVSS No. 222. Effective October 21, 2009, S5.1.5 of FMVSS No. 222, "Seat Cushion Retention," requires the following:

In the case of school bus passenger seats equipped with seat cushions, with all manual attachment devices between the seat and the seat cushion in the manufacturer's designated position for attachment, the seat cushion shall not separate from the seat at any attachment point when subjected to an upward force in newtons of 5 times the mass of the seat cushion in kilograms and multiplied by 9.8 m/s^2 , applied in any period of not less than 1 nor more than 5 seconds, and maintained for 5 seconds.

In the seats at issue, the seat cushion locking mechanism is capable of being misaligned, either during seat or vehicle assembly or after the vehicle is in use. A seat cushion with a misaligned locking mechanism would not be able to meet the new performance requirements specified above.

The total number of seats that are subject to this misalignment issue is 2,296. However, because the seats were manufactured and shipped to customers recently, many of them have not been installed on buses, and some of the buses on which the covered seats were installed have not yet been released to the public. In fact, IMMI has already worked with bus manufacturers to install a guide bracket on many of the covered seats, which positively locates the locking mechanism relative to the designed latch position. The bracket eliminates the possibility of misalignment, thus ensuring that the vehicles will comply with the S5.1.5 of FMVSS No. 222.

The seats covered by this letter were sold to the following entities. IMMI does not know how many buses, if any, each of these manufacturers has manufactured and sold with seats containing an unremedied locking mechanism.

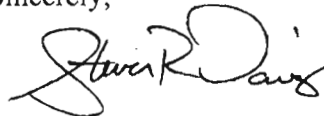
1. Bus Air Manufacturing
6630 East Highway 114
Rhome, TX 76078
2. Bus West
TransWest Truck Center
10150 Cherry Avenue
Fontana, CA 92335
3. Collins Bus Corp
415 West 6th Street
South Hutchinson, KS 67505
4. Durham School Services, L.P.
250 West 53RD St. N.
Wichita, KS 67204
5. First Group America
140 Shawnee
Buffalo, NY 14215
6. Matthews Buses
7313 Northern Blvd.
Syracuse Parts Location
East Syracuse, NY 13057
7. H A DEHART & SON INC
311 Crown Point Road
FTBB9
Thorofore, NJ 08086
8. IC Corp of Oklahoma, LLC
2322 North Mingo Rd.
Tulsa, OK 74116

9. IC Corp.
751 South Harkrider
Conway, AR 72032
10. Sartin Services, Inc.
Trans/South Services, Inc.
71 Highway 341 North
Fort Valley, GA 31030
11. Starcraft Bus
2367 Century Dr.
Goshen, IN 46528
12. State of Delaware Laurel School District
1160 S. Central Avenue
Laurel, DE 19956
13. Thomas Built Buses, Inc.
1408 Courtesy Road
High Point, NC 27260
14. Transportation South, Inc.
1400 McCain Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124

IMMI will expeditiously notify each of the vehicle manufacturers identified above of this situation, and it will work with them to assure that any noncompliant buses are remedies promptly.

If you have any questions, please contact James Johnson, Corporate Director of Sales. He can be reached at (317) 867-8143 or James.Johnson@imminet.com. Alternatively, you can contact me at (317) 867-8192 or steve.davis@imminet.com.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Davis
General Counsel

cc: George Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation