



RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 2:57 pm, Dec 02, 2011

Caterpillar Inc.
100 NE Adams Street
Peoria, Illinois 61629-9240

December 2, 2011

Mr. Dan Smith
Associate Administrator
Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Smith,

In accordance with the requirements of the National Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the procedure prescribed in 49 CFR 573.6, attached is Caterpillar Inc.'s (Caterpillar's) notification of a safety defect that may exist in certain Caterpillar C7 Diesel Engines used in school bus applications.

Please contact me if there are additional requirements regarding this notification.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Lane".

Thomas S. Lane
On-Highway Safety & Compliance Manager
Product Safety & Compliance

Phone (309) 675-6496
Fax (309) 636-2911

Attached: OEM Contact List

1) MANUFACTURER

Caterpillar Inc.
100 N.E. Adams St.
Peoria, IL. 61629-9240

2) COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION

Model No.: C7 Diesel Engines produced by Caterpillar Inc. - 7L, 6-cylinder, turbocharged and air-to-air aftercooled engines with 190-300 Horsepower ratings.
Serial No. Prefixes: C7S
Manufacturing Build Dates: December 14, 2006 to January 6, 2009
Component Description: Diesel engine coolant

3) NUMBER OF ENGINES POTENTIALLY CONTAINING DEFECT

3,873 engines in the US. The total population is 4,289 engines and the remainder have been sold outside the US or removed from service.

4) ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF ENGINES POTENTIALLY CONTAINING DEFECT

100% of the engine population.

5) DEFECT DESCRIPTION

Cooling system coolant in this application can degrade, which may cause engine components to prematurely deteriorate. If coolant leaks are not observed and remedied, a coolant leak could be experienced. This may, in conjunction with other factors or circumstances, create the potential for a crash hazard.

6) PRINCIPAL EVENTS THAT WERE THE BASIS FOR MAKING RECALL DETERMINATION

- a) Caterpillar was notified by NHTSA ODI on January 20, 2011 that while investigating another issue, ODI received input that CGI (clean gas induction) coolant hoses were leaking.
- b) Caterpillar immediately began a review of this reported failure mode and commenced a formal problem resolution team on February 16, 2011.
- c) On March 29, 2011 NHTSA ODI opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE11-008).
- d) On July 13, 2011 NHTSA sent Caterpillar an Information Request (IR) for PE11-008.
- e) Caterpillar filed a response to the PE11-008 IR on August 3, 2011.
- f) NHTSA ODI was continually informed of the problem resolution progress.
- g) Caterpillar subsequently identified the root cause as coolant degradation in this application, which may cause engine components to prematurely deteriorate.
- h) On November 28, 2011 Caterpillar made a decision to declare this failure mode a potential safety defect.

7) PROGRAM TO REMEDY DEFECT

The recall campaign to remedy the defect is as follows:

- a) Caterpillar will issue the recall through a Safety Product Improvement Program (PIP) to change the coolant and provide new instructions for coolant sampling to determine the correct coolant maintenance and change interval in an updated Operation and Maintenance Manual.
- b) Caterpillar will submit the customer notification letter to NHTSA for approval.
- c) Caterpillar will provide a representative copy of the Safety PIP to NHTSA.

C7 Coolant Recall OEM Contact List

Number of Engines Supplied in these Countries

	<u>US</u>	<u>Canada</u>
William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator Blue Bird Corporation 402 Blue Bird Blvd Fort Valley GA 31030 478-822-2242 bill.coleman@blue-bird.com	3,873	407
Totals	<u>3,873</u>	<u>407</u>
Total US & Canada recall Population	4,280	
Engines sold outside US & Canada	1	
Engines Removed from Service (NERO)	8	
Total subject Population	4,289	

Tom Lane
Caterpillar Inc.
On-Highway Safety & Compliance Mgr.
12-2-11