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(2 pages)

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

March 29, 2011

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-601, FMVSS 120 Noncompliance

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 6,395 school and nonschool Thomas Built Buses manufactured April 17, 2000 through December 21, 2009 for a tire load range error printed on the Certification Label.

Attached are Daimler Trucks North America's Defect Information Reports.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7006 3450 0003 7727 0711

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

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Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

March 29, 2011

- (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: Minotour on Ford Chassis
Model Years affected: 2000, 2002 through 2006, and 2009
Manufacture Dates: August 17, 2000, through January 5, 2009
Basis for determining population: Nonschool buses equipped with certification labels listing "D" load range tires with recommended cold tire inflation pressure greater than 65 psi.
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not Applicable
- (c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 35
- (c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 100%
- (c)(5) **Description of the defect:** Information printed on the vehicle Certification Label as required by 49 CFR 571.120 Sections S5.3(a) and Sec. S5.3.1 is incorrect. Labels state load range "D" tires. Vehicles are equipped with load range "E" tires. Incorrect tire information may lead to tire overloading or over inflation possibly resulting in a tire failure which may lead to a vehicle crash.
- (c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** Not Applicable
- (c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** During February 2011, Thomas Built Buses was notified that 28 units potentially contained labels with incorrect tire load range information. Thomas bus conducted an investigation to validate the concern, and to determine the potential scope of the issue. In March 2011 Thomas Bus determined that a data entry error caused certain labels to be printed with incorrect information.
- (c)(8) **(i) Remedial program:** Labels containing incorrect information will be replaced.
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 prior to May 28, 2011.
Dealer and distributor notification will be completed approximately five business days prior to owner notification.
- (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-601