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By Recall Management Division at 10:20 am, Sep 21, 2011

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

September 20, 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-611, Cummins V-Band Clamp Recall

Mr. Smith

In reference to NHTSA campaign number 11V-474, it was determined that school buses were included in the original DIR dated September 1, 2011 and should have resulted in a separate DIR. An amended DIR has been attached.

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 6225 Freightliner, Freightliner Custom Chassis, Thomas Built Buses vehicles and 1825 Thomas Built Buses, school buses manufactured September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, and equipped with V-Band clamp T-bolts where the T-Bolt may be susceptible to fracture or failure due to an error in the supplier's plating process.

Attached is Daimler Trucks North America's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Nasser Zamani

Cc: Amy Martin, Chief Counsel, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7006 3450 0003 7727 0452

A Daimler Company

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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

September 20, 2011

(c)(1) Manufacturer: Daimler Trucks North America LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

Brands: Freightliner, Freightliner Custom Chassis, Thomas Built Buses

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Thomas Built Bus Saf-T-Liner C2, Saf-T-Liner MVP-EF,
and Saf-T-Liner HDX

Model Years affected: 2011, 2012

Manufacture Dates: September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Basis for determining population: Cummins Inc. supplied a list of affected engine serial numbers.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Cummins Inc.
500 Jackson Street
Columbus, Indiana 47201
1-812-377-5000

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 1825 school bus vehicles in US

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: Cummins has determined that due to an error in the component supplier's plating process, the T-bolt included on the V-Band clamp assembly may be susceptible to fracture or failure when subjected to stress or load and may cause the clamp to loosen and the inlet or outlet sections attached to the DOC/DPF housing to disconnect allowing hot exhaust gases to vent prior to the tailpipe, creating a risk of combustion or damage to adjacent materials. In cases where resilient mounting is employed, the DOC/DPF housing could disconnect completely from the exhaust system or vehicle in the unlikely event that both V-Band clamps were to fail or loosen. In either case, the vehicle's engine check engine light will illuminate.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: If the inlet or outlet sections disconnect, hot gases can vent prior to exiting the tailpipe, creating the risk of combustion and a fire.

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- (c)(6) Chronology of principal events:** On August 10, 2011, Cummins notified DTNA that it had filed a DIR on 8/8/11 with NHTSA that a defect related to motor vehicle safety may exist in certain V-Band Clamps and T-Bolts with Cummins ISB6.7, ISC8.3, ISL9, ISX11.9 and ISX15 engines. On August 11, 2011, Cummins supplied DTNA with a list of affected engine serial numbers and requested Customer owner data and ATD serial numbers. DTNA began an initial investigation to determine whether its vehicles were affected. On August 28, 2011, DTNA determined that this may constitute a safety-related defect with respect to the vehicle applications identified above.
- (c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data:** N/A
- (c)(8) (i) Remedial program:** V-Band Clamps on potentially affected vehicles will be replaced. Repairs will be performed by Cummins authorized service facilities.
- (ii) Estimated Owner and Dealer Notification Date:** Cummins will notify owners of the recall beginning August 2011. Cummins will administer this recall campaign.
- (c)(9) Information for tire recalls:** Not Applicable
- (c)(10) Communications sent to manufacturers, dealers and owners:** Cummins will administer this recall campaign.
- (c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number:** FL-611