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By Recall Management Division at 7:55 am, Oct 18, 2011

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11V-505
(2 pages)

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

October 17, 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-615, Saf-T-Liner C2 Brake Line Chafe

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 700 Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner C2 school buses manufactured March 9, 2004, through January 2, 2008 and equipped with Caterpillar C7 engines, hydraulic brakes, and a fuel water separator for a potential defect in brake and fuel line routing.

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 0810

A Daimler Company

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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

October 17, 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: Thomas Built Buses - Saf-T-Liner C2 school buses

Model Years affected: 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009

Manufacture Dates: March 9, 2004, through January 2, 2008

Basis for determining population: Saf-T-Liner C2 vehicles equipped with Caterpillar C7 engines, hydraulic brakes, and a fuel water separator.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not Applicable

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 700

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: On Saf-T-Liner C2 vehicles equipped with Caterpillar C7 engines, hydraulic brakes, and a fuel water separator, the fuel line going from the fuel water separator to the engine may rub on the hydraulic brake lines potentially resulting in a brake fluid leak.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: A brake fluid leak may reduce brake performance and increase the risk of a crash

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: February 2011 – DTNA received a report alleging contact between the fuel line and brake lines resulted in a brake fluid leak and partial loss of braking. February through August 2011 – DTNA conducted field inspections to identify scope of issue and identify population potentially involved. October 10, 2011 – DTNA decided to conduct a safety recall to address affected vehicles.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: Not Applicable

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: Vehicles will be inspected to ensure correct clearance between the fuel and brake lines exists. Damaged lines will be replaced. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities.

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 December 15, 2011

Dealer and distributor notification will be completed approximately December 15, 2011

(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-615