DAIMLER

Daimler Trucks North America

Nasser Zamani
Senior Manager
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

December 13, 2011

Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator of Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Defect Information Report – Supplemental Report No. 1
11V-503, FL-616, Battery Cable Pass-thru Corrosion
Dealer Notice

Ms. Lewis,

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Daimler Trucks North America LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information and copies of documents distributed to dealers.

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 3,109

(c)(8)(ii) Dealer and distributor notification: Began and ended: December 9, 2011

(c)(10) A copy of communications sent to dealers is attached.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Nasser Zamani

Cc: Amy Martin, CAL-OSHA
Attachment

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

Product Recall

To: ALL DEALERS

From: TRACY SAUERBREY – WARRANTY/RECALL DEPARTMENT

Subject: RECALL 11V-503/ TC2011-369 Battery Cable Pass-Thru Corrosion

Date: December 9, 2011

Enclosed are copies of the customer notification letter and the repair procedure for Recall 11V-503. This recall involves certain Saf-T-Liner C2 model school buses manufactured between April 5, 2004 and December 26, 2005. The defect involves the pass-through power cable connections. Under certain environmental conditions the pass-through cable connections located behind the driver's side kick panel may corrode potentially resulting in an electric fault or short circuit. An electric fault or short circuit of an un-fused power cable may result in a vehicle fire.

This is a universal notification sent to all dealers. You may or may not have customers in your area affected by this recall. If owners in your area are subject to this recall, we have enclosed a printout listing those customers' names and addresses. If there is not a printout enclosed according to our records there are no units in your area involved. **If you have a printout and any of the units on it are still in your possession it is your responsibility to ensure the recall is performed before the unit is delivered to the customer.**

The remedy will consist of inspecting and cleaning and adding protection to power cables, it will take approximately .7 hour per unit for this repair. After inspection, if needed the body and/or chassis cables may have to be replaced. (SRT 90-120= .7 inspection/clean/add protection, SRT 90-121= .2 replacement of body cables or pass thru studs, SRT 90-122 = .6 replacement of chassis cables). **PLEASE NOTE: PRE-APPROVAL IS REQUIRED FROM YOUR TBB DISTRICT SERVICE MANAGER BEFORE YOU PERFORM EITHER OF THE LAST TWO REPAIRS. PARTS: Please order your parts individually from your Parts Distribution Center**

Thomas Built Buses has elected to notify all customers directly. Your customers will be contacting you to schedule an appointment for repairs. Reimbursement for labor, (if requested) may be obtained by filing a warranty claim.

If you know of any customers who own or operate a Thomas bus in this recall, whose name and address is NOT listed or is INCORRECTLY listed on the enclosed printout, please promptly notify Thomas Built Buses of that additional information in writing. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Tracy
Enclosures: Customer Letter Repair Procedure Printout (if applicable)

RECALL #11V-503, TC2011-369

REPAIR PROCEDURE

MODEL: SAF-T-LINER C2

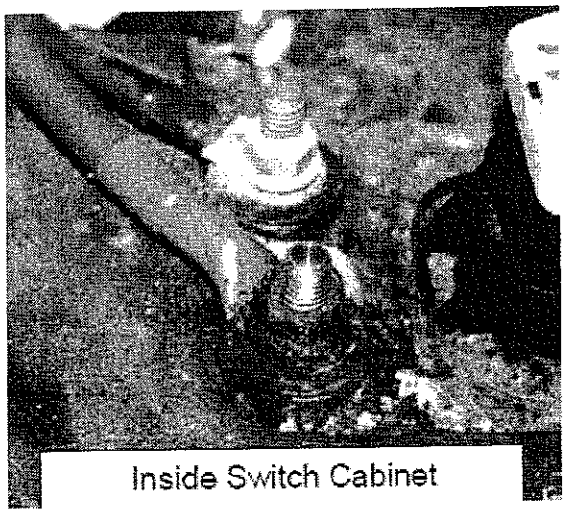
SUBJECT: BODY BATTERY CABLES PASS-THRU CORROSION

IMPORTANT: READ ENTIRE PROCEDURE BEFORE BEGINNING.

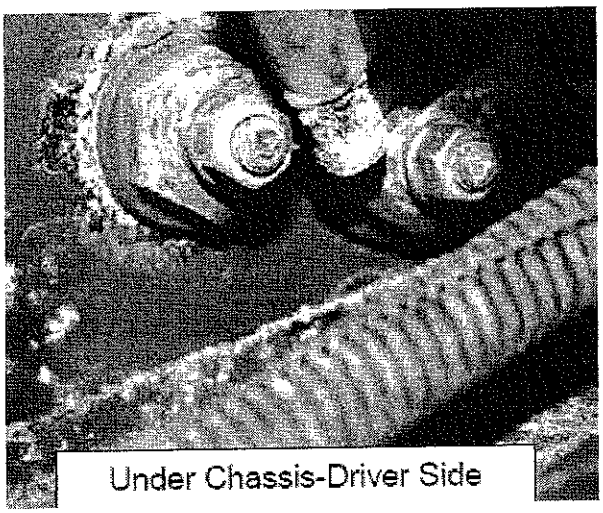
This document is intended to provide general guidance for cleaning and / or replacing of components due to corrosion at the Body Battery Cables Pass-Thru. These cables supply power and ground to the body power distribution module located in the driver's left hand control cabinet. The pass-thru studs are located in the floor beneath the control cabinet. The main focus will be to remove a section of floor covering and clean, torque, and protect body battery cables and pass-thru studs inside and outside the cab. After cleaning, if any of these listed components have eroded beyond safe usage, the component should be replaced. Refer to the component list at the end of this document.

1. Make sure the ignition is in the "Off" position. Chock the tires and disconnect the batteries.

2. Remove the lower panel at the left-hand drivers control cabinet. Locate the body battery power cables and pass-thru studs. Confirm the location of the pass-thru studs beneath the floor under the vehicle. These are just behind the left front fender.

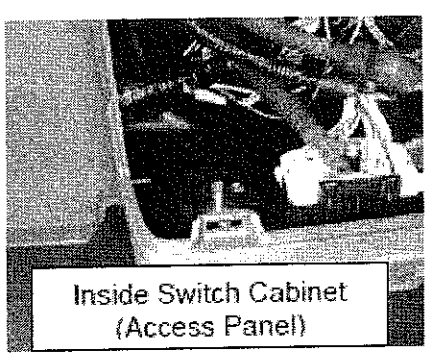


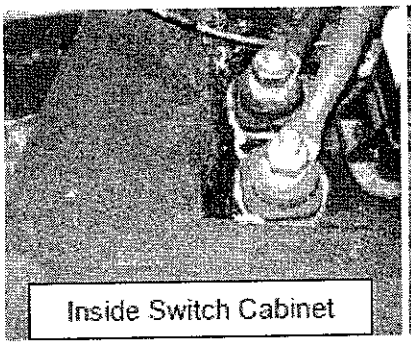
Inside Switch Cabinet

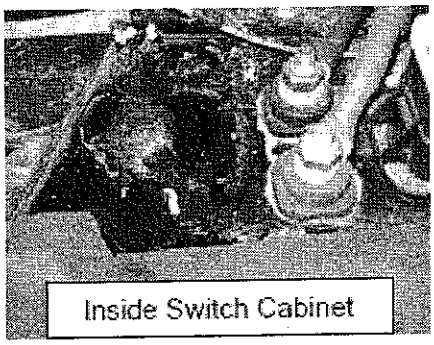


Under Chassis-Driver Side

3. A section of the floor covering will be removed. For units built prior to access panels, note the marks or left by the cabinet panel. Mark a cutting line ¾ of an inch to the inside of the cabinet. This will ensure the panel will overlap the floor covering when reinstalled.

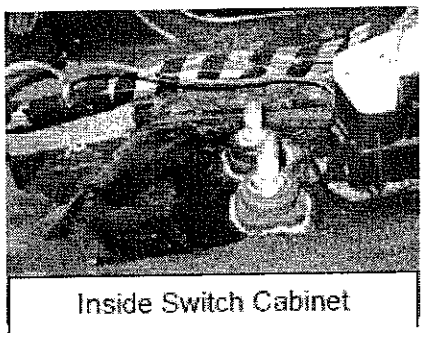

Inside Switch Cabinet (Access Panel)

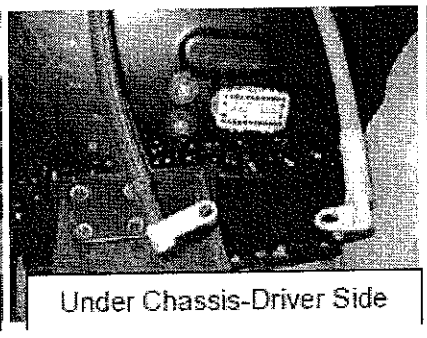

Inside Switch Cabinet

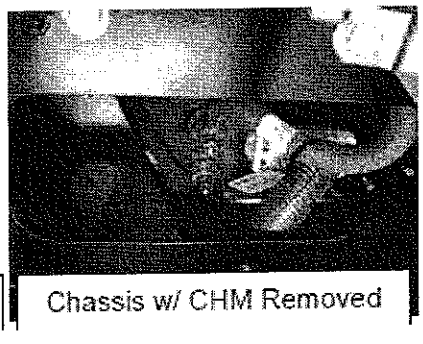

Inside Switch Cabinet

4. Cut along the inside of the cabinet bottom (access panel), or marked line down to the floor pan. Pull up and remove the floor covering that is located under the control cabinet. Clean out any debris (metal or plastic shavings, dirt, rocks, sand) that may be trapped around the pass-thru studs.

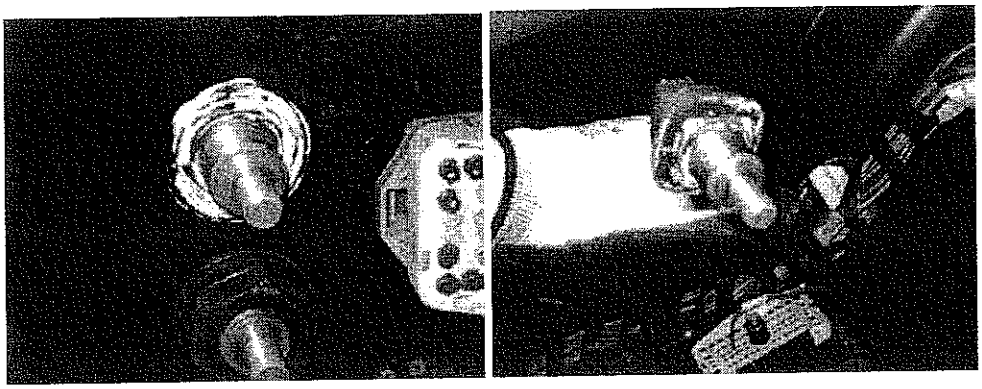
5. Remove the battery cables from the pass-thru studs above and below the floor. If the unit is built with horizontal mounted CHM / EXM, the modules can be removed from the mounting bracket to access the studs. Clean the loose scale, if present, from the cable terminal ends, hardware, and pass-thru studs top and bottom. Determine if these components can be cleaned and reused, or if they should be replaced due to corrosion erosion. See material list at the end of this procedure for component part numbers that need replaced.


Inside Switch Cabinet


Under Chassis-Driver Side

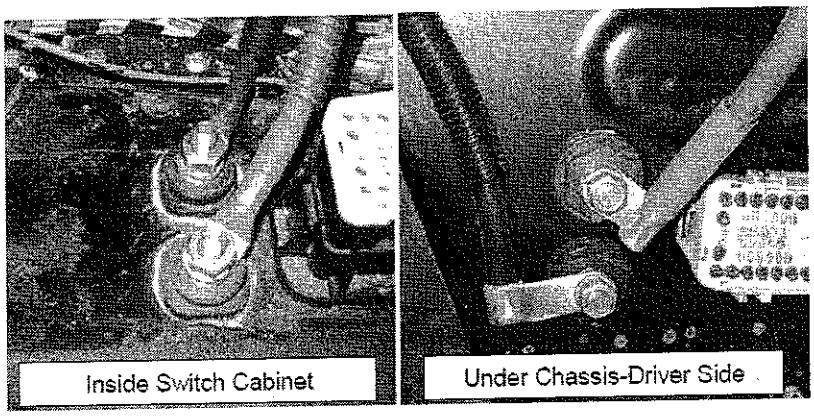

Chassis w/ CHM Removed

6. Clean the cable terminal ends, hardware, and pass-thru studs top and bottom so that no corrosion is present. To gain better access to the pass-thru studs, the nylon mounting nuts below the floor can be removed so the studs can be cleaned while removed from the vehicle.

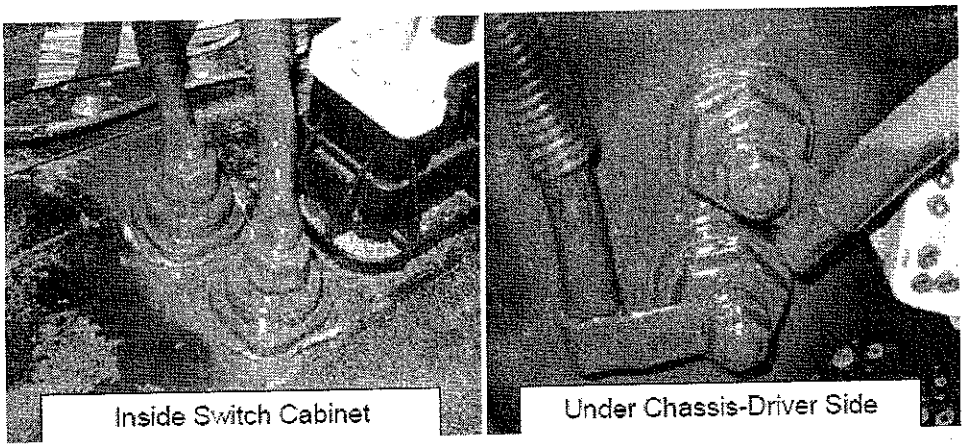


7. For reassembly, be sure all components are clean and dry.

8. If removed or replaced, reinstall the pass-thru studs and attach the body battery cables. Torque the nylon mounting nuts to 5.0 – 7.0 FT-LBS. Torque the brass terminal studs (top & bottom) to 7.4 – 8.85 FT-LBS.



9. Apply a liberal amount of Red Varnish Dielectric Sealer to the exposed metal battery cable terminals, pass-thru studs, and hardware. Be sure to cover all the exposed metal completely.



10. Reinstall the lower panel of the drivers control cabinet.

11. Connect the batteries and remove the tire chocks.

SRT Time Allowance	
INSPECT, CLEAN, ASSEMBLE AND ADD PROTECTION TO POWER CABLES	0.7 HRS.
REPLACEMENT OF BODY CABLES OR PASS-THRU STUDS (PRE-APPROVAL FROM TBB DISTRICT SERVICE MANAGER REQUIRED)	0.2 HRS.
REPLACEMENT OF CHASSIS CABLES (PRE-APPROVAL FROM TBB DISTRICT SERVICE MANAGER REQUIRED.)	0.6 HRS.

COMPONENT LIST:

TOTAL REPLACEMENT (MFJB INSIDE BATTERY BOX)	
PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
TBB 146992	CABLE, GROUND RETURN, JUNCTION TO PDM MAIN BODY
TBB 146993	CABLE, POWER SUPPLY, JUNCTION TO PDM MAIN BODY
A06-49120-107	POWER - CABLE, POSITIVE, 1GA, 5/16, 3/8 (MFJB INSIDE BATTERY BOX)
A06-49119-092	POWER - CABLE, NEGATIVE, 1GA, 3/8-3/8 FLAG (MFJB INSIDE BATTERY BOX)
A06-65736-082	POWER - CABLE, POSITIVE, 1GA, 5/16, 3/8, 82" (MFJB OUTSIDE BATTERY BOX)
A06-65737-056	POWER - CABLE, NEGATIVE, 1GA, 3/8-3/8 FLAG (MFJB OUTSIDE BATTERY BOX)
23-13718-003	STUD, PASS-THRU, ELEC, 3/8-16, RED
23-13770-000	NUT - MOUNT, 3/4-16UNF, NYLON, RED
23-13718-004	STUD, PASS-THRU, ELEC, 3/8-16, BLACK
23-13770-001	NUT - MOUNT, 3/4-16UNF, NYLON, BLACK
23-11677-002	NUT - HEX, SST, 3/8-16 UNC
23-09983-038	WASHER - LOCK, SST, 3/8"
TBB 171770	CONSUMABLES (RED INSULATING VARNISH, CLEANER, ABRASIVE, ETC.)
	MFJB = MEGA FUSE JUNCTION BOX

December 15, 2011

Recall 11V-503
TC2011-369

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Thomas Built has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on certain Saf-T-Liner C2 model school buses manufactured between April 5, 2004 and December 26, 2005. These units are identified on the enclosed postcard (Form PSD 304).

The defect involves the pass-through power cable connections. Under certain environmental condition the pass-through power cable connections located behind the driver's side kick panel may corrode potentially resulting in an electric fault or short circuit. An electric fault or short circuit of an un-fused power cable may result in a vehicle fire.

You should immediately contact your Thomas Built Buses dealer for an appointment to have your vehicle modified. Thomas will remedy this defect without charge. The remedy will consist of inspecting and cleaning and adding protection to power cables, it will take approximately .7 hour per unit for this repair. After inspection, if needed the body and/or chassis cables may be replaced. **To arrange for repairs, contact your local Thomas Built Buses dealer. After the repair is made, please complete each postage paid card separately and return it to Thomas Built Buses to verify completion.**

The postcard must be filled out and returned:

Once the vehicle has been completed
Once it has been determined that the vehicle does not need repair
If you no longer own the vehicle
If the vehicle identified on the postcard has been exported, stolen, or destroyed/totaled

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving the recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

If you have had your vehicle repaired due to this defect prior to receipt of this notice and you have incurred any costs, you may be eligible for reimbursement. For further information, please contact the Warranty Department at (336) 889-4871, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time Monday through Friday. To find a dealer in your area please go to www.thomasbus.com. Owners may be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns within a reasonable time after receiving notification.

If the defect is not remedied without charge and within a reasonable time which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, also please contact the Warranty Department at (336)889-4871, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. If you believe that Thomas Built Buses has failed or is unable to remedy the defect without charge longer than 60 days, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20590, or phone the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153) or go to http://www.safercar.gov. In Canada, if after contacting your dealer and/or Manufacturer Customer Service you have additional question with regards to this recall, you may contact Transport Canada – road Safety, 80 rue Noel, Gatineau, Quebec J8Z 0A1 or call 1-800-333-0510.

Sincerely,

Tracy Sauerbrey
Warranty/Recall Department

Enclosure