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12V-296
(2 pages)

DAIMLER

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

June 26, 2012

Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215, Rm. W45-206)
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Information Report FL-630, SMI ProLo Roof Escape Hatch

Ms. Lewis:

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 1475 Thomas Built Busses (1312 school buses and 163 non school busses), SAF-T-Liner EF, SAF-T-Liner HDX, SAF-T-Liner C2 and Minotour vehicles manufactured April 5th 2011 through April 23rd 2012date, and equipped with SMI ProLo roof escape hatches that may not comply with FMVSS 217 maximum opening force requirements.

Please note that this information is related to 12E-017 produced by the Specialty Manufacturing, Inc on April 18th, 2012.

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, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7003 2260 0001 3404 2341

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
4747 N. Channel Avenue
Portland OR 97217-7699
503-745-6910 Phone
503-745-5544 Fax
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DAIMLER

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

Date: 06/26/12

(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: SAF-T-Liner EF School Bus, SAF-T-Liner HDX School Bus, SAF-T-Liner C2 School Bus, Minotour School Bus.

Model Years affected: 2010 - 2013

Manufacture Dates: 4/5/11 – 4/23/12

Basis for determining population: The population is based on bus build dates that correspond to ship dates of recalled SMI ProLo hatches.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Joe Uebbing, Chief Executive Officer
Specialty Manufacturing, Inc.
10200 Pineville Road
Pineville, NC 28134

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 1312

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 17%

(c)(5) Description of the noncompliance: Increased friction between the rear plate assembly and nylon receiver on ProLo roof hatches results in an opening force that may exceed the 40 pound FMVSS 217 requirement.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: In the event of an emergency, a noncompliant hatch may not provide a means of readily accessible egress, increasing the risk of injury to the vehicle occupants.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: March 2012 SMI begins investigation. May 2012 SMI Issues OEM letters to affected manufactures.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: see 12E-017

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: Thomas Built Buses will notify affected customers of this non compliance. SMI will provide service kits 009493 along with repair instructions. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Daimler Trucks North America to do their own warranty repairs
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 August 24, 2012.
Dealer and distributor notification will be completed approximately August 24, 2012.

(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-630