



September 11, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lewis
 Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
 NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
 ADMINISTRATION
 Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Recall Notification
 2004~2008 Orion CNG Transit Buses**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On September 10, 2012 Daimler Buses North America (DBNA) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2004~2008 model year Orion CNG powered transit buses and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Please note, this information is identical to 12E-026 furnished by John Deere Power Systems to NHTSA on July 9, 2012. After initial customer notification by DBNA, John Deere will be undertaking any subsequent customer notifications, the remedy in the field and the quarterly completion report submissions.

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Daimler Buses North America
Manufacturer's agent: Bill Nicolle
 Daimler Buses North America
 350 Hazelhurst Road
 Mississauga, Ontario L5J 4T8
 Canada

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Orion V CNG Transit Bus	Certain 2004~2008 model year	1VHBF3L2146 / Jan.2004 up to 1VHBH3L2X86 / Dec.2008
Orion VII CNG Transit Bus	Certain 2005~2006 model year	1VGGH3T2356 / Jan.2005 up to 1VHGF3L2256 / Dec.2005

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:

The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Component: John Deere CNG engine
Country of Origin: United States
Manufacturer: John Deere Power Systems
Contact Name: Raymond W. Hinton
Address: 3801 W. Ridgeway Ave., P.O. Box 5100, Waterloo, IA. 50704-5100
Telephone No. : (319)292-5542

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 187

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect Description:

Failures can occur within the engine turbocharger. The turbine or compressor wheel may fail resulting in subsequent damage to the turbocharger.

The failure is caused by casual or contributory factors including weld failure, foreign object damage or low cycle fatigue.

Consequences of the failure can include broken compressor wheel, broken turbine shaft, broken turbine wheel, turbocharger and engine failure, poor performance, noise, fault codes, exhaust smoke and low oil pressure. Turbine shaft failures may result in engine lubricating oil entering the exhaust system. Poor performance would be immediate. The vehicle would have low power and smoke heavily from the exhaust system.

As a result of these failures, John Deere determined that this condition may constitute a safety-related defect with respect to transit buses manufactured by Daimler Buses North America.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology (as supplied by John Deere and noted in 12E-026):

Nov. 17, 2010	John Deere Product Improvement Program 10RG264 released to provide turbocharger extended warranty to California Urban Bus Customers.
Dec.01, 2010	Notification letter sent to NHTSA.
Jan. 14, 2011	Initial telephone contact by Larry Long (Safety Defects Specialist, NHTSA) in response to PIP 10RG264. List of questions provided
Jan. 28, 2011	Telephone call with Larry Long to provide responses to questions of
March 5, 2011	Telephone call with Bruce York (Division Chief, Heavy Truck & Bus, Office of Defect Investigation, NHTSA), follow-up to questions of 14 January 11
March 12, 2012	PE12-006 information received from Bruce York via FAX
March 14, 2012	ODI Resume Investigation opened PE 11-042.
June 8, 2012	John Deere submits responses to PE12-006.
June 22, 2012	Recognition of NHTSA concern for quantity of thermal events reported in response to PE12-006.
July 9, 2012	John Deere submits Part 573 to NHTSA. Recall number 12E-026 is assigned.
Sept. 6, 2012	John Deere supplied DBNA with a total of 187 possibly affected engine serial numbers (ESN).
Sept. 7, 2012	DBNA supplied John Deere with 187 VIN's and 13 affected customer names and addresses corresponding to the supplied ESN's.
Sept.10, 2012	DBNA determined a safety defect existed in certain Orion VII transit buses.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

DBNA will notify affected Orion customers of this defect and the potential safety consequences. Subsequent notifications (once a remedy is determined) and the remedy itself, will be undertaken without charge, by John Deere.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date for preliminary notification to customers:	Oct.31,'12 by DBNA
The estimated date to provide service bulletin:	TDB by John Deere
The estimated date to begin sending notifications:	TDB by John Deere
The estimated date of completion of the notification:	TDB by John Deere

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter will be submitted to your office by John Deere.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

N/A.

Sincerely,

Daimler Buses North America



Bill Nicolle
Safety and Compliance Officer