



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

February 1, 2013

Mr. Nasser Zamani  
Daimler Trucks North America  
4747 N. Channel Avenue  
PO Box 3849  
Portland, OR 97217-3849

NVS-215KS  
13V-022

**Subject:** Headlights & Tailights may go out

Dear Mr. Zamani:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Trucks North America's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

THOMAS BUILT/SAF-T-LINER EFX/2013-2014

**Mfr's Report Date:** January 22, 2013

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 13V-022

**Components:**

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:FUSES AND CIRCUIT BREAKERS  
EXTERIOR LIGHTING

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 143

**Problem Description:**

Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA) is recalling certain model year 2013-2014 Thomas Built Buses brand Saf-T-Liner EFX school buses manufactured from March 29, 2012, through November 14, 2012 and equipped with 100% Daytime Running Lights (DRL) option code C3676-24-000. The DRL circuit breaker may trip during continuous operation of the headlights in high beam mode. This would result in a loss of power to the headlights, marker lights, tail lights, and dash lighting.

**Consequence:**

A loss of power to the bus' lights may reduce the driver's ability to see other vehicles, pedestrians, or objects, as well as reduce the bus' visibility to other drivers or pedestrians, increasing the risk of crash.

**Remedy:**

DTNA has notified the affected owners. Dealers will replace the circuit breaker, free of charge. The recall began on December 14, 2012. Owners may contact DTNA at 1-800-547-0712.

**Notes:**

DTNA's recall campaign number is FL-638. Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).



It is our understanding that notification to owners began on December 14, 2012, prior to our review of the owner notification letter. Should it become necessary for DTNA to do an additional notification, the follow-up notification must be submitted to this office for review and it must comply with the requirements of Part 577.5, "Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision."

The information in your report suggests that Daimler Trucks North America may have had sufficient information upon which to make a safety defect decision more than five business days before filing a report with NHTSA. Please explain, for example, why DTNA made a production change to address this issue in November 2012, but a defect decision and notification to NHTSA did not occur until January 2013. Please be reminded that under Federal law, this agency is to be notified of all safety defect and/or noncompliance decisions within five business days. 49 CFR 573.6 Significant civil penalties can be assessed for this violation.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at [kelly.schuler@dot.gov](mailto:kelly.schuler@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement