



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 4, 2013

Mr. Bill Nicolle  
Daimler Buses North America  
350 Hazelhurst Road  
Mississauga, Ontario L5J 4T8

NVS-215KS  
13V-476

**Subject:** Battery Equalizers/DC-DC Converters-Possible Fire

Dear Mr. Nicolle:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Buses 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:**

ORION/V/2003-2008  
ORION/VII/2002-2010

**Mfr's Report Date:** September 27, 2013

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 13V-476

**Components:**

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 3,009

**Problem Description:**

Daimler Buses North America Ltd. (DBNA) is recalling certain model year 2003-2008 Orion V and model year 2002-2010 VII buses equipped with Sure Power equalizers and DC-DC Converters. The specific potting compound used in the equalizers and convertors for insulation was found to be capable of conducting electricity after being exposed to heat.

**Consequence:**

Once electrically conductive, the material is capable of melting and burning, increasing the risk of a fire.

**Remedy:**

DBNA will notify owners and Sure Power representatives will change out the equalizer and/or convertor, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin mid-November 2013. Owners may contact DBNA at 1-905-403-1111.

**Notes:**

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).

We have received DBNA's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

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).

We understand that Sure Power will be handling the quarterly reporting for this campaign. Please be reminded that as the vehicle manufacturer DBNA is ultimately responsible for conducting an adequate safety recall campaign of its vehicles. Accordingly if this safety recall campaign is not successful, the agency may require DBNA to conduct a follow-up notification and conduct additional quarterly reporting.

On August 20, 2013, NHTSA announced new changes to the requirements governing safety recalls. Some of these requirements are already in effect. Please ensure your company will be in compliance with each requirement on, or before, its respective effective date. For a summary of the requirements and their effective dates please click on the "New!" link at <http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Manufacturers>.

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