



13V-056
(4 pages)

February 18, 2013

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
2011~2012 Orion VII Transit Buses**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On January 25, 2013 Daimler Buses North America (DBNA) determined that a potential defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2011~2012 model year Orion VII transit buses equipped with disc brakes and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

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 VII Transit Bus	Certain 2011 model year	1VHHH3V51B6707761 / Aug.2011 <i>up to</i> 1VHHH3V55B6707942 / Dec. 2011
Orion VII Transit Bus	Certain 2012 model year	1VHFD3G53C6708007 / Feb.2012 <i>up to</i> 1VHFD6G5XC6708409 / Oct. 2012

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

The recall population was based on manufacturing records of vehicles equipped with disc brakes using MGM brake components. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Component: Meritor axles (containing MGM brake chambers)
Country of Origin: United States
Manufacturer: Meritor (axle assemblies) / MGM Brakes (components)
Contact Name: Meritor – Christine Wright – Quality Manager
MGM – Henry Dangson – Senior Director of Quality
Address: Meritor: 2135 West Maple Road, Troy, MI 48084-7186
MGM: 8530 Cliff Cameron Drive, Charlotte, NC. 28269-5906
Telephone No. : Meritor: (248)435-1968 / MGM Brakes (704)547-7411

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 171

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect Description:

Under certain intermittent conditions, brake chambers have been found to leak sufficient pressure from the parking brake circuit to allow for brake drag when the parking brake is supposed to be released. Brake dragging could lead to overheated brake components which, in certain conditions, could result in fire.

573.6(c)(6)

Chronology:

- Jan. 22, 2013** Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) contacted MGM Brakes regarding a complaint of brakes dragging on certain Orion VII buses in their fleet equipped with disc brakes. WMATA indicated two (2) OEM's had issued recall notice of defect for the same issue using the same MGM brake components.
DBNA was copied on the email from WMATA to MGM.
- Jan. 23, 2013** DBNA contacted MGM. MGM indicated ODI had issued EQ12011 noting affected OEM's. DBNA was not on the affected list as DBNA does not purchase brake components directly from MGM but purchases axle assemblies from Meritor containing the disc brake components.
- Jan. 25, 2013** DBNA determined a safety defect existed in certain disc brake Orion VII buses equipped with MGM brake chambers.
- Jan. 31, 2013** DBNA notified NHTSA on their intention to recall affected vehicles.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

DBNA will notify affected Orion customers of this defect and the potential safety consequences. The remedy – brake chamber replacement - will be undertaken without charge, by MGM Brakes once supplied with the list of affected customers and VIN's by DBNA.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date for preliminary notification to customers: by Feb. 22, 2013

The estimated date to provide service bulletin: TDB

The estimated date to begin sending notifications: by Feb.22, 2013

The estimated date of completion of the notification: Feb.22, 2013

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 shortly.

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