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13V-074  
(4 pages)

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

March 1, 2013

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

**Re: Defect Information Report FL-639, Switch Hub Module**

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 161 Freightliner Business Class M2, 108SD, and 114SD vehicles manufactured December 3, 2011 through October 12, 2012, and equipped with a SmartPlex Switch Hub Module that may exhibit unrequested activation of certain outputs. DTNA provides the Switch Hub Module on incomplete Freightliner vehicles for use by final stage vehicle manufactures. The Switch Hub Module is customizable to the individual requirements of each final stage manufacture. Final stage vehicle manufacture' features and equipment may include remote engine start and other unknown body equipment. Out of abundance of caution, DTNA decided to conduct a recall and replace the affected modules in the incomplete Freightliner vehicles.

The Switch Hub Module has been used in Thomas Built Buses without any field issue for a number of years. Unlike its truck counterpart, the Switch Hub Module controls only the Amber and Red lights activation as opposed to body equipment. An unrequested activation of only one side amber and/or red lights from the switch hub module was reported at Thomas Built Buses plant. Further investigation and analysis determined that the said lights could activate (not deactivated) if the issue presented itself. Thomas Built Buses believes that the issue was self correcting upon activation of the lights in the plant which passivates the flux residue on the PCBA rendering normal operation of the module thereafter.

A Daimler Company

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

DTNA has determined that this issue does not represent an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety for Thomas Buses. Again, DTNA has not identified any field reports or warranty claims related to this issue on school buses or any other DTNA products.

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, Chief Counsel, CAL-OSHA

Enclosure

Certified Mail#

7003 2260 0001 3420 3339

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## Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

March 1, 2013

**(c)(1) Manufacturer:** Daimler Trucks North America LLC  
P.O. BOX 3849  
Portland, Oregon 97208  
(503) 745-5219

**Brands:** Freightliner

**(c)(2) Vehicles identification:**

**Model(s) affected:** Business Class M2, 108SD, 114SD

**Model Years affected:** 2012, 2013

**Manufacture Dates:** December 3, 2011 through October 12, 2012

**Basis for determining population:** Freightliner incomplete vehicles manufactured with a SmartPlex Switch Hub module with a suspect serial number

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:**

Phoenix International  
1441 44th Street NW  
Fargo, ND 58102

**(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 161 in the United States  
57 in Canada

**(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** Unknown

**(c)(5) Description of the defect:** Unpassivated flux residue may be present on the PCBA in the Switch Hub Module. Under certain heat and humidity conditions, unpassivated flux residue may lead to intermittent shorts thereby activating certain outputs in the Switch Hub Module.

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** Unrequested activation of the Switch Hub Module output which may activate certain final stage vehicle manufacturer installed body equipment or features may pose a risk to the vehicle operator or other vehicles.

**(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:** In mid June of 2012 DTNA observed vehicles during the assembly process with some exterior lights on or flickering. The Switch Hub Modules were removed from these vehicles and returned to the supplier, Phoenix International, for testing. Phoenix was unable to duplicate the behavior in testing. At the end of July 2012 representatives from Phoenix visited a DTNA manufacturing plant and removed additional switch Hub Modules for testing. Phoenix identified the outputs that may be susceptible to the shorting and activation. DTNA began an investigation of the issue. DTNA searched field reports and warranty claims and did not find any reports or claims related to unrequested activation of equipment connected to the Switch Hub Module. In September 2012 Phoenix International made process changes to ensure that no unpassivated flux residue was present on the PCBA. In January 2013, DTNA decided to conduct a field service campaign to replace the modules on incomplete Freightliner vehicles. DTNA continued to try and understand how the Switch Hub Modules may be used by final stage vehicle manufactures. On February 25, 2013 DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary safety campaign on certain Freightliner incomplete vehicles. DTNA has not received any customer or field reports related to this issue.

**(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data:** N/A

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**(c)(8) (i) Remedial program:** The Switch Hub Module serial number will be inspected and if it is in the suspect range the module will be replaced. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities.

**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 no later than April 29, 2013.

Dealer and distributor notification will be completed no later than April 29, 2013.

**(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-639