

RECEIVED

By Recall Management Division at 6:06 am, Sep 18, 2013

13V-468
(2 pages)

DAIMLER

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

September 17, 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-647, Minotour Floor Sheets

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 32 Thomas Built Buses Minotour DRW School Bus vehicles manufactured June 29, 2013 through July 16, 2013, and equipped with a floor joint that may not meet DTNA specifications.

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# 7006 3450 0003 7727 0230

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

DAIMLER

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

September 17, 2013

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

Brands: Thomas Built Buses

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Minotour DRW School Bus

Model Years affected: 2013

Manufacture Dates: June 29, 2013 through July 16, 2013

Basis for determining population: Vehicles built using an alternate floor sheet material

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: N/A

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 32 United States, 8 Canada

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 100%

(c)(5) Description of the defect: An alternate material was used in the floor sheets of the subject Minotour vehicles. The adhesive used to join floor components may not bond to this alternate material as well as expected and there for some floor joints may not perform to DTNA specifications in the event of a crash.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Underperforming floor joints may increase the risk of injury in a crash.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: In August of 2013 Thomas Built Buses discovered that an alternate material may have been used in the floor sheets of some Minotour vehicles. An investigation was opened to determine the scope of the issue and if the alternate material would perform as expected in the Minotour floor joints. On September 17, 2013 DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary safety campaign to upgrade affected vehicles.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data:

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: Mechanical fasteners will be added to the affected floor joints. 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 November 16, 2013.

Dealer and distributor notification will be completed no later than November 16, 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-647