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13V-606
(2 pages)

DAIMLER

Defect Information Report
(Section 573.6)

November 26, 2013

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

Brands: Thomas Built Buses

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Saf-T-Liner C2, Saf-T-Liner HDX and Minotour school buses

Model Years affected: 2013, 2014 and 2015

Manufacture Dates: August 5, 2013 through November 15, 2013

Basis for determining population: Delivery of suspect components from supplier.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Lisa Hanson, Director of Corporate Quality

Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc.

18881 US 31 North

Westfield, IN 46074

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 145 in the United States.

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: Per Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. (IMMI) defect information report (NHTSA recall number TBD), "Certain IMMI seat belt assemblies equipped with L9 buckles do not satisfy the requirements of S4.3 (g) of FMVSS 209. When the push button on the buckle is pressed to release the latch plate for egress, the latch plate can become partially engaged with the buckle. Under this circumstance, the partially engaged latch plate may not separate from the buckle when a force of 22N is applied.

The root cause of the noncompliance is associated with the locking pawl (part number 916030) inside the L9 buckle. Some locking pawls from specific manufacturing lots were produced with an excessively large burr. The burr on the locking pawl can catch the edge of the latch plate when the button is pressed to unlatch the buckle, causing a partial engagement condition."

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: In the event of accident or emergency, vehicle occupants may be unable to exit the vehicle immediately and an injury could occur.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: November 2013 IMMI informed DTNA that a potential noncompliance with FMVSS 209 existed on certain seat belt buckles. DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary recall on affected population.

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

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: Potentially affected vehicles will be inspected and replacement buckles will be installed as required. 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 January 26, 2014.

Dealer and distributor notification will be completed no later than January 26, 2014.

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(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-654