



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 21, 2015

Mr. Andy Jones
Daimler Trucks North America LLC
4747 N. Channel Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

NVS-215KS
15V-432

Subject: Exterior Emergency Door Handle may Detach

Dear Mr. Jones:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Trucks North America LLC'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:

THOMAS/SAF-T-LINER CONVENTIONAL/2001-2005
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER C2/2005-2013
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER EFX/2013
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER ER/2002-2004
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER FS65/2001-2008
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER HDX/2003-2013
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER MVP-EF/2002-2013
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER MVP-ER/2002-2003
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/TL-960/2002-2003
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/VISTA/2002

Mfr's Report Date: June 26, 2015

NHTSA Campaign Number: 15V-432

Components:

STRUCTURE:BODY:DOOR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 103,038

Problem Description:

Daimler Trucks North America LLC (DTNA) is recalling certain model year 2002-2013 Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner ER, 2001-2005 Saf-T-Liner Conventional, 2002-2013 Saf-T-Liner MVP-EF, 2013 Saf-T-Liner EFX, 2001-2008 Saf-T-Liner FS65, 2005-2013 Saf-T-Liner C2, 2003-2013 Saf-T-Liner HDX, 2002-2003 Saf-T-Liner MVP-ER, 2002 Vista, and 2002-2003 TL-960 school buses manufactured from February 5, 2001, through May 29, 2012. In the affected vehicles, the stem that connects the outside emergency door handle to the emergency door opening mechanism may corrode.

Consequence:

If the stem corrodes, the door handle could detach from the emergency door opening mechanism, delaying the opening of the door and the evacuation of the bus. In the event of an emergency, this may increase the risk of injury to the bus occupants.

Remedy:

DTNA will notify owners, and dealers will either replace the stems or protect them against corrosion, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin August 26, 2015. Owners may contact DTNA customer service at 1-800-745-8000. DTNA's number for this recall is FL-685.

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.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

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 or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement