



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 19, 2019

Mr. Perry Bolick  
Proterra Inc.  
1 Whitlee Ct.  
Greenville, SC 29607

NEF-150MR  
19V-871

**Subject:** Loss of Warning when Brake Interlock is Engaged

Dear Mr. Bolick:

This letter serves to acknowledge Proterra Inc.'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:**  
PROTERRA/CATALYST/2019

**Mfr's Report Date:** December 9, 2019

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 19V-871

**Components:**  
ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: SOFTWARE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 151

**Problem Description:**

Proterra, Inc. (Proterra) is recalling certain 2019 Catalyst buses. A body controller software update may have disabled the audible and visible warnings that notifies the operator that the brake interlock could be engaged.

**Consequence:**

If the vehicle does not warn the driver that the brake interlock is engaged, the rear brakes may overheat, increasing the risk of a fire or crash.

**Remedy:**

Proterra will notify owners, and dealers will update the body controller software, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin January 9, 2020. Owners may contact Proterra customer service at 1-864-438-0000.

**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](http://www.safercar.gov).

NHTSA is missing critical, required information for this safety recall. This information must be supplied through the NHTSA Recalls Portal within 5 working days of confirming its accuracy:

- A description of the basis for your company's determination of the recall population (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(2)).
- A statement that the defect can cause a vehicle crash without prior warning; or a description of whatever prior warning may occur, and a statement that if this warning is not heeded, a vehicle crash can occur (49 CFR 577.5 (f)(1)).

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).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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 Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joshua Neff  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement