

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 19V-686

**Manufacturer Name :** Daimler Trucks North America LLC

**Submission Date :** OCT 07, 2019

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 19V-686

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** FL-828



## Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** Daimler Trucks North America LLC

**Address :** 4747 N. Channel Avenue

Portland OR 97217-3849

**Company phone :** 800-745-8000

## Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 618

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 13 %

## Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2017-2020 Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner C2

**Vehicle Type :**

**Body Style :**

**Power Train :** NR

**Descriptive Information :** Certain Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner C2 School Buses equipped with a Detroit DD5 Engine and Allison Transmission.

**Production Dates :** JUN 29, 2016 - APR 04, 2019

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

Not sequential

## Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** On certain school buses, the Flex-Plate/Torque Converter fasteners may not have been properly torqued at the plant. Improperly torqued fasteners at the flex plate may diminish the clamp load and can become broken or dislodged within the flywheel housing.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** If the torque converter bolts are loose or cross threaded, bolts may fall into the flywheel housing. The loose bolts may lead to illumination of the CEL, damage to the flex plate, or become lodged into the starter, which could result in a disabled school bus and result in a school bus evacuation procedure in an uncontrolled traffic situation, increasing the risk of an injury.

**Description of the Cause :** NR

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** NR

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR  
Address : NR  
NR  
Country : NR

**Chronology :**

March 2019, DTNA received two reports from the field of loose fasteners in the flywheel housing that resulted in the school buses becoming disabled. The issue was communicated to the chassis plant requesting an inspection to identify potential scope. March to April 2019, the Chassis plant performed an inspection of 183 school bus chassis, still on the premises before being shipped to Thomas Built Buses. The inspection revealed that on certain school buses, the specified torque process might not have been followed, so proper torque cannot be guaranteed. April 2019, the chassis plant improved the parts and tooling for proper torquing of the Flex-Plate/Torque Converter fasteners. May 2019 – August 2019, DTNA was notified of three additional reports from the field. These reports raised concerns about school buses shutting down while transporting children with potential of being transferred to another vehicle in an uncontrolled environment. A warranty seek was reviewed to determine the scope of the issue. The review indicated an elevated failure rate on Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner C2 School buses configured with a Detroit DD5 Engine and an Allison Transmission. DTNA therefore concluded that the issue was limited to these vehicles with this particular configuration. September 2019, DTNA with an abundance of caution, decided to conduct a voluntary recall campaign on certain school buses that may have incorrectly torqued Flex-Plate/Torque Converter fasteners. October 7, 2019, certain vehicles within the date range had been inspected as part of the investigation. Subsequently it was determined that a subset of them may not have been inspected correctly and therefore, with an abundance of caution, DTNA is adding these vehicles back to the recall population.

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : The Flex Plate/Torque Converter fasteners will be inspected and repaired if necessary on the identified School buses. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities. Customer notification will be done by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

How Remedy Component Differs NR  
from Recalled Component :

Identify How/When Recall Condition NR  
was Corrected in Production :

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 25, 2019 - NOV 25, 2019

Planned Owner Notification Date : NOV 25, 2019 - NOV 25, 2019

\* NR - Not Reported