



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 29, 2020

Ms. Larissa Stoffels  
Exec Mgr, Vehicle Safety  
Daimler Trucks North America, LLC  
4747 N. Channel Ave  
Portland, OR 97217

NEF-150MR  
20V-787

**Subject:** Parking Brake May Release Unexpectedly/FMVSS 121

Dear Ms. Stoffels:

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 BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER C2/2021

**Mfr's Report Date:** December 16, 2020

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 20V-787

**Components:**

PARKING BRAKE:CONVENTIONAL:AIR  
PARKING BRAKE:ELECTRICAL:CONTROL MODULE:SOFTWARE  
SERVICE BRAKES, AIR

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 28

**Problem Description:**

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC (DTNA) is recalling certain 2021 Thomas Built Saf-T-Liner C2 Jouley electric school buses. If the service brake pedal is pressed and then released while the parking brake is engaged, the parking brake may release unexpectedly. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 121, "Air Brake Systems."

**Consequence:**

An unexpected disengagement of the parking brake without continual application of the service brake may allow the vehicle to roll freely, increasing the risk of a vehicle crash.

**Remedy:**

DTNA will notify owners, and dealers will update the electronic control unit (ECU) software, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin February 13, 2021. Owners may contact DTNA customer service at 1-800-745-8000. DTNA's number for this recall is FL-870.

**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).

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

The percentage of products estimated to contain the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(4)). This information was submitted in DTNA's Defect Information Report separate document, please amend the Part 573 so that it is consistent with that document.

**AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.**

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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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