



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 9, 2021

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

NEF-107MR  
21V-113

**Subject:** Emergency Exit May Remain Locked/FMVSS 217

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/MINOTOUR/2022

**Mfr's Report Date:** February 24, 2021

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 21V-113

**Components:**

STRUCTURE:EMERGENCY:ESCAPE/EGRESS/EXIT:LATCHING/RELEASE SYSTEM

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 14

**Problem Description:**

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC (DTNA) is recalling certain 2022 Thomas Built Minotour School Buses equipped with an optional rear door Vandalock system. The engine can potentially be started while an emergency exit is still locked. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 217, "Bus Emergency Exits and Window Retention and Release."

**Consequence:**

A locked emergency exit can delay passengers from exiting the vehicle during an emergency, increasing their risk of injury.

**Remedy:**

DTNA will notify owners, and dealers will repair the Vandalock interlock system, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin April 24, 2021. Owners may contact DTNA customer service at 1-800-547-0712. DTNA's number for this recall is FL-876.

**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:**

Per the requirements of 573.6(c)(2)(iv), please provide the supplier name, contact information, address and country of origin (if known) for the Vandalock Interlock System. If your company manufactured the component itself, then please state so in 573.

**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.

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC's contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement