

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL-876

Date of Submission: February 24, 2021

Manufacturer: Daimler Trucks North America LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208

Type of Report: Safety Defect Non-Compliance

Vehicle Information

Model Yr. Start: 2022 **Model Yr. End:** 2022

Make: Thomas Built Buses

Model: Minotour

Production Dates: **Begin:** 06/20/2020 **End:** 09/14/2020

Type: Buses, Medium & Heavy Duty Vehicles

Descriptive Information: Minotour School Buses built on model year 2021 Ford chassis with optional rear door Vandalock

Number potentially involved: 14 **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:** 100%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance: On the affected vehicles, there is a potential that the engine can be started while an emergency exit remains locked, contrary to FMVSS 217 S5.2.3.3.

If a noncompliance, provide the applicable FMVSS: 217 – Bus emergency exits and window retention and release

Describe the safety risk: A non-compliance with FVMSS 217 S5.2.3.3 may delay exiting of the bus in an emergency and increase the risk of injury.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur: NA

If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component. NA

Involved Components

Component Name: Vandalock – Rear Emergency Door With Interlock & Barrel Bolt

Component Option Number: B51850200

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision.:

In December 2020 during a review of a Minotour bus built on a new model year chassis, Thomas Built discovered that—contrary to previous indications that it was not possible to start the vehicle with the Vandalock emergency exit device locked—it was possible to start the vehicle while the Vandalock was engaged in certain very limited circumstances. Thomas Built Buses Engineering promptly began an investigation into the interlock system on this bus to understand the issue. TBB Engineering continued the investigation and contacted the chassis manufacture to get information on the vehicle starting system and discovered that, given an unusual set of inputs, the ignition interlock could be overridden. In January 2021 Thomas Built Buses began to identify buses built with the same option combinations that were present on the bus that initially exhibited the issue. On February 18, 2021 DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary non-compliance recall on certain Minotour buses equipped with a Vandalock.

Identify the Remedy

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture’s plan for reimbursement. The circuitry of the Vandalock interlock system will be modified. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities. Details of the reimbursement plan will be included in the owner’s notification letter.

Identify the Recall Schedule

Describe the recall schedule for notifications.: Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date: 04/24/2021

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 04/24/2021

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 04/24/2021

Planned Owner Notification End Date: 04/24/2021

Manufacture’s identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL-876

DTNA Representative;



Larissa Stoffels

Executive Manager, Vehicle Safety
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs