Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL-882

Date of Submission: March 24, 2021

Manufacturer: Daimler Trucks North America LLC

P.O. BOX 3849

Portland, Oregon 97208

Type of Report: X Safety Defect Non-Compliance

Vehicle Information

Model Yr. Start: 2021 Model Yr. End: 2022

Make: Thomas Built Buses

Model: C2 Saf-T-Liner school buses

Production Dates: Begin: 08/17/2020 End: 03/01/2021

Descriptive Information:

Certain buses built with axial mounted brake calipers and a particular valve stem.

Number potentially involved: 22 Estimated percentage of involve with defect: 100%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

On all buses in the population, the tire valve stem extension for the inner wheel makes contact with the disc brake caliper which wears down the stem material. Excessive damage to the valve stem extension may result in a loss of tire pressure of the inner wheel which could lead to tire deflation.

Describe the safety risk:

The potentially affected bus population may not be equipped with a factory tire pressure monitoring system and only a thorough visual inspection may detect the contact between the caliper and stem. The failure of the tire could occur at any time during the operation of dropping off/picking up children. Deflated tires can increase the risk of a crash due to drivability concerns. Furthermore, an inactive bus may require the transfer of children to an alternate bus for transport in an unpredictable location which may not be safe.

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Identify any warning which can precede or occur:

A thorough visual inspection may detect the contact between the caliper and stem. Operator may hear a scraping noise from the brake caliper rubbing against the stem while driving or braking.

If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component.: N/A

Involved Components

Component Name: Valve Stem

Component Description: VLV STM, 5/8 375 150 21 57

Component Part Number: 681 401 21 13

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

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

On February 19th, 2021, DTNA was notified by the dealer of the delivery of a bus with flat inner tires. On February 22nd, 2021, DTNA opened an investigation for potential problem identification. The investigation revealed that during a visual inspection of the tire, the valve stem was contacting the disc break caliper and had been worn through enough to cause a leak. In early March 2021 DTNA, in an abundance of caution, decided to initiate a voluntary recall on this configuration.

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Identify the Remedy

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement. The valve stems will be replaced to ensure enough clearance with the brake caliper. 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:5/22/2021Planned Dealer Notification End Date:5/22/2021Planned Owner Notification Begin Date:5/22/2021Planned Owner Notification End Date:5/22/2021

Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL-882

DTNA Representative;

Larissa Stoffels

Executive Manager, Vehicle Safety Compliance and Regulatory Affairs