

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL-902

Date of Submission: September 15, 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: *Saf-T-Liner HDX*

Production Dates: **Begin:** 10/26/2020 **End:** 06/10/2021

Descriptive Information: *Certain school buses equipped with an L9 engine and manufactured 10/26/2020 and 06/10/2021.*

Number potentially involved: 50 **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:** 50%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

On the affected vehicles, the fan drive pulley assembly bolts may be incorrect or have been improperly installed. Incorrect bolts or improperly installed bolts may lead to a loose fan belt and eventually a disabled school bus.

Describe the safety risk:

A disabled school bus evacuation procedure in an uncontrolled traffic situation, may increase the risk of injury.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur:

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

Involved Components

Component Name: Mounting Bolt

Component Description: Screw-Cap, Hex M10x35 10.9 ZN

Component Part Number: 61370886

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

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

At the end of May 2021, DTNA received a notification from a drive-away company that some of the fan drive pulley assembly mounting bolts sheared off. The bus was parked and idling when the driver heard a noise and turned off the engine. The driver opened the engine cover and found that the fan drive pulley had shifted and the fan belt lost tension. DTNA arranged to have the bus brought to a dealership for service and requested that the dealer identify the grade of bolts used. DTNA then requested the drive-away company identify the grade of bolts present of other buses they were delivering. DTNA immediately began in investigation to determine the scope of the issue. In or around June through August 2021 DTNA undertook a detailed review of warranty and field reports. Two addition instances were identified related to the fan drive mounting bolts. In total 8 buses were identified with potential issues related to the fan drive pulley assembly mounting bolts. There were no occurrences that led to a disabled bus while it was in operation. On September 10, 2021, DTNA with an abundance of caution, decided to conduct a voluntary recall campaign on certain Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner HDX school buses that may have improper or improperly installed fan drive pulley assembly mounting fasteners. DTNA conducted Field Inspections between April 7, 2021 and May 26, 2021 on eight busses. The inspection discovered three busses with sheared hardware and two additional busses had the wrong hardware installed. Warranty claims were subsequently filed for four of these units. There are no reported injuries or deaths related to this issue.

Identify the Remedy

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement.

The fan drive pulley assembly mounting fasteners will be inspected and repaired as necessary. 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: 11/8/2021

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 11/8/2021

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 11/8/2021

Planned Owner Notification End Date: 11/8/2021

Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL-902

DTNA Representative;



Larissa Stoffels
Executive Manager, Vehicle Safety
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs