

## Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

**FL-903**

**Date of Submission:** *October 23, 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:** 2015 **Model Yr. End:** 2018

**Make:** Thomas Built Buses

**Model:** Minotour

**Production Dates: Begin:** 12/14/2013 **End:** 06/29/2017

**Descriptive Information:** Certain CNG Minotour buses built within date range above.

**Number potentially involved:** 87 **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:** 10%

### Defect / Noncompliance Description

#### For this Defect/Noncompliance:

##### Describe the defect or noncompliance:

Per the component supplier, IMPCO Automotive: "The underbody shut-off solenoid connector to a CNG fuel tank may corrode and could form a high-resistance short in the connector, potentially causing overheating or, in rare circumstances, a self-extinguishing flame. If there is a fuel leak or other combustible material in the vicinity, there is a risk of ignition."

##### Describe the safety risk:

Per IMPCO Automotive: If there is a fuel leak or other combustible material in the vicinity, there is a risk of a fire.

##### Identify any warning which can precede or occur:

**If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component.:** IMPCO Automotive

### Involved Components

**Component Name:** Shut-Off Solenoid

**Component Description:** CNG Fuel Shut-Off Solenoid

**Component Part Number:** Unknown

## **Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination**

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

IMPCO Automotive designed and installed CNG conversions for gasoline powered General Motors vehicles and other vehicle makes including chassis used in the Minotour bus. IMPCO Automotive no longer operates as a company. In February 2021 Thomas Built Buses received a report on a Minotour bus with an IMPCO Automotive CNG fuel system installed. The bus was preparing to leave the yard when the engine shutdown. The driver went to get a technician from the shop and when they returned, there was smoke coming from under the bus. In mid March of 2021, an investigation by the customer and Thomas Built Buses of the bus identified the CNG fuel shut-off solenoid as the source of the event. At this time, Thomas Built Buses identified an IMPCO Automotive/General Motors recall, 13V-225, that affected vehicles built prior to the bus involved in this incident and may have related to the reported Minotour issue. DTNA began an investigation to better determine if the event was related to the previous IMPCO Automotive recall. In or about that time, DTNA reviewed the fuel shut-off solenoid from the bus involved in the incident. The solenoid did not have any identifying part numbers printed on it so it could not be determined if it was the solenoid that was previously recalled. In the course of this investigation DTNA discovered that that some of IMPCO Automotive's assets were purchased by another company. DTNA reached out to this company to see if they had any production records or knowledge related to the Thomas Built Buses that IMPCO Automotive had converted to CNG. The new company was unable to provide any records to help determine if the bus contained the same defect that IMPCO had previously recalled. In September 2021, out of an abundance of caution, DTNA decided to issue a voluntary safety recall on certain Thomas Built Buses Minotour school buses with an IMPCO Automotive CNG fuel system in order to replace that supplier's defective parts.

## Identify the Remedy

**Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement.** The CNG fuel cut-off solenoid will be replaced. 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.

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date:</b> | <i>11/14/2021</i> |
| <b>Planned Dealer Notification End Date:</b>   | <i>11/14/2021</i> |
| <b>Planned Owner Notification Begin Date:</b>  | <i>11/14/2021</i> |
| <b>Planned Owner Notification End Date:</b>    | <i>11/14/2021</i> |

**Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable):** *FL-903*

**DTNA Representative;**



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