

Defect / Noncompliance Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL953

Date of Submission: 9/14/2022

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

Type of Report: Safety Defect Non-Compliance

Vehicle Information

Model Yr. Start: 2020 Model Yr. End: 2023

Make: Thomas Built Buses

Model: Thomas Saf-T-Liner HDX

Production Dates: Begin: 3/25/2019 End: 7/11/2022

Descriptive Information:

The rear exterior side sheet joints on certain Thomas Built Buses HDX school buses built with 20-gauge side sheet panels and certain fastener configurations do not meet the requirements of FMVSS 221 S5.1.

Basis for Determination of the Recall Population:

Thomas Built Buses HDX school buses built with 20-gauge side sheet panels and manufactured in the production range listed above.

Number potentially involved: 1259

Estimated percentage of involved with defect: 100%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

On certain HDX school buses, the rear exterior 20-gauge side sheet was found to not meet the joint strength requirement of FMVSS 221 S5.1.

Describe the safety risk:

A body joint on a school bus that does not meet the joint strength requirement of FMVSS 221 S5.1 may increase the risk of injury in a crash.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur: NA**If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component.:**

There are no defective or noncompliant components on the affected vehicles. This issue is related only to the joint configuration on the affected vehicles.

Involved Components

Component Name: ____ N/A _____

Component Description: ____ N/A _____

Component Part Number: ____ N/A _____

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

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

On or about August 16 2022, Thomas Built Buses identified a school bus built with rear exterior 20-gauge side sheet joints with lower than expected tensile strength. These side sheet joints were identified during a periodic joint strength verification test. Thomas Built Buses immediately began an investigation to determine the scope and potential impact of this verification finding. On August 26 2022, Thomas Built Buses continued working to identify potentially affected vehicles and conducting additional testing. On September 9 2022, DTNA decided to initiate a voluntary noncompliance recall for certain Thomas Built Buses HDX school buses built with these 20-gauge side sheet joints and with the certain configuration of fasteners that may not meet the joint strength requirements of FMVSS 221 S5.1.

Identify the Remedy

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

Additional mechanical fasteners will be added to the joints on affected vehicles in order to bring the vehicles into compliance. The repair will be conducted by a Daimler Truck North America authorized service facilities. Daimler Truck North America shall be offering a refund for owner-paid repairs covered by this recall if the repair was performed prior to the date indicated in the reimbursement plan, which will be posted with owner's notification letter. Owners are directed to seek reimbursement through authorized dealers.

Identify the Recall Schedule

Describe the recall schedule for notifications.:

Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Truck North America records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date: 11/13/2022

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 11/13/2022

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 11/13/2022

Planned Owner Notification End Date: 11/13/2022

Does DTNA plan to file inconsequentiality petition? Yes No

Manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): __ FL953 __

DTNA Representative;



Sam Geser
Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs