



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

April 11, 2023

Mr. Sam Geser  
CRA Manager  
Daimler Trucks North America, LLC  
4747 N Channel Ave  
Portland, OR 97217

NEF-107ES  
23V-259

**Subject:** Loss of Steering from Missing Tie Rod Fastener

Dear Mr. Geser:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Trucks North America, LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

THOMAS BUILT BUSES/HDX/2023  
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER C2/2023-2024  
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER C2 JOLEY/2023-2024  
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER EFX/2023  
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER MVP-EF/2023

**Mfr's Report Date:** April 7, 2023

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 23V-259

**Components:**

STEERING:LINKAGES:TIE ROD ASSEMBLY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 48

**Problem Description:**

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC (DTNA) is recalling certain 2023-2024 Thomas Built SAF-T-LINER C2, SAF-T-LINER Jouley, 2023 SAF-T-LINER EFX Chassis, HDX Chassis, and SAF-T-LINER MVP-EF school buses. The tie rod may be missing a fastener, allowing the steer arm to detach.

**Consequence:**

A detached steering arm can result in a sudden loss of steering control, increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

The remedy is currently under development. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed June 4, 2023. Owners may contact DTNA customer service at 1-800-547-0712. DTNA's number for this recall is FL970.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).



Please ensure the following requirements are met:

The percentage of products estimated to contain the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(4)). If less than 1%, amend your filing to state 1% and provide the actual calculated amount in the first product text box.

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

The total number of products potentially containing the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(3)).

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(8)(i)).

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f), submission of eight consecutive quarterly reports followed by three annual reports is required. As described in 573.7, submission of the first of eight consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter. The first of three consecutive annual status reports will be due on, or before, 1 year after the eighth quarterly report was submitted.

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC's contact for this recall will be Emily C. Smith who may be reached by email at [emily.c.smith@dot.gov](mailto:emily.c.smith@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement