

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 23V-259

**Manufacturer Name :** Daimler Trucks North America, LLC**Submission Date :** MAY 31, 2023**NHTSA Recall No. :** 23V-259**Manufacturer Recall No. :** FL970**Manufacturer Information :****Population :**

Manufacturer Name : Daimler Trucks North America, LLC

Number of potentially involved : 48

Address : 4747 N. Channel Avenue

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Portland OR 97217-3849

Company phone : 800-745-8000

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle 1 : 2023-2023 Thomas Built Bus SAF-T-LINER C2 Jouley

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM &amp; HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

Descriptive Information : Suspect population of front steering axles without production torque data and photo evidence of cotter pin in-place following rework operations, suspect vehicles built within the listed production date ranges.

Original DIR Model Identification:  
Jouley

Production Dates : MAY 09, 2022 - MAY 09, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2023-2023 Thomas Built Bus SAF-T-LINER EFX

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM &amp; HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : Suspect population of front steering axles without production torque data and photo evidence of cotter pin in-place following rework operations, suspect vehicles built within the listed production date ranges.

Original DIR Model Identification:  
Thomas EFX Chassis

Production Dates : MAR 02, 2022 - JUL 28, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2023-2024 Thomas Built Bus School Bus Chassis

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : Suspect population of front steering axles without production torque data and photo evidence of cotter pin in-place following rework operations, suspect vehicles built within the listed production date ranges.

Original DIR Model Identification:  
Thomas MVP-EF Chassis

Production Dates : JAN 19, 2022 - OCT 20, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2023-2023 Thomas Built Bus TBB Chassis

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : Suspect population of front steering axles without production torque data and photo evidence of cotter pin in-place following rework operations, suspect vehicles built within the listed production date ranges.

Original DIR Model Identification:  
C2

Production Dates : APR 12, 2022 - APR 12, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2023-2023 Thomas Built Bus SAF-T-LINER HDX

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : Suspect population of front steering axles without production torque data and photo evidence of cotter pin in-place following rework operations, suspect vehicles built within the listed production date ranges.

Original DIR Model Identification:  
Thomas HDX Chassis

Production Dates : MAR 27, 2022 - OCT 28, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : On the affected vehicles, front steer axle tie rod castle nut cotter pin may be missing from the assembly.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : On the affected vehicles, the steer axle tie rod castle nut cotter-pin may be missing. This may result in the castle nut backing off and displacement of the taper-end from the steering arm. This may result in a loss of steering response and lack of direction control increasing the risk of crash.

Description of the Cause : Re-worked at a different station due to certain requirements, and was not manufactured through standard process involving multiple inspection points.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Driver may experience some additional free-play in the steering and/or feel an improper steering alignment

**Involved Components :**

Component Name 1 : Front Steer Axle

Component Description : Tie rod castle nut cotter-pin

Component Part Number : F2-Model 2, F3-Model 3 and F5-Model 5 front steer axles

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : Detroit Diesel Corp

Address : 13400 Outer Dr W  
Detroit Michigan 48239

Country : United States

**Chronology :**

Mid-February 2023, DTNA received a report on an incident involving failed tie rod assembly and opened a preliminary investigation. Upon returned failed part analysis, it was determined that the driver's side tie rod disengaged from the steering arm during low speed maneuvering. Around late February 2023 through early March 2023, DTNA identified that the subject vehicle experiencing the failure, was re-worked at a different station due to certain requirements, and was not manufactured through standard process involving multiple inspection points. In about mid-March 2023, DTNA identified a population of certain axles, that were manufactured at a rework station. DTNA opened an official investigation immediately following receiving this

notice of a possible presence of a defect, and on March 29, 2023, out of an abundance of caution, DTNA decided to initiate a new voluntary safety recall to campaign all the listed vehicles. As of March 31st 2023, DTNA is aware of 1 field report and 0 warranty claims related to missing front steer axle tie rod castle nut cotter pin. DTNA is not aware of any accidents or injuries due to this defect condition. On April 7 2023, DTNA finalized the affected population after further determining precise vocational application of the vehicles. On May 30, 2023, DTNA amended the Defect Information Report to clarify and consolidate the model listing (to facilitate reading comprehension with no change to the population).

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	DTNA is preparing remedy and is currently under development. Repairs will be performed free of charge by Daimler Truck North America authorized service facilities. Details of the reimbursement plan will be included in the owner’s notification letter. Owners are directed to seek reimbursement through authorized dealer.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	Presence of required cotter-pin
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	2/23/2023: 2 Quality Alerts Posted: Red Tag required 100% at first station on production line with NOK (Not Okay) operations, and Rework Alert.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	JUN 04, 2023 - JUN 04, 2023
Planned Owner Notification Date :	JUN 04, 2023 - JUN 04, 2023

\* NR - Not Reported