

Defect / Noncompliance Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL972

Date of Submission: 05/08/2023

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: 2024 **Model Yr. End:** 2024

Make: Thomas Built Buses

Model: Saf-T-Liner C2

Production Dates: **Begin:** 10/01/2022 **End:** 02/10/2023

Descriptive Information:

One particular exterior body panel joint formed at the last rafter, near the structure of the D-pillar, on certain Thomas Built Buses (TBB) Saf-T-Liner C2 school buses built on a specific TBB production shift may not meet the tensile requirements of FMVSS 221 School bus body joint strength.

Basis for Determination of the Recall Population:

TBB Saf-T-Liner C2 school buses manufactured on a specify production shift in the production range listed above.

Number potentially involved: 146

Estimated percentage of involved with defect: 20%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

On certain TBB Saf-T-Liner C2 school buses built on a specific TBB production shift, the rear exterior joint formed by side-sheet overlapping the D-panel at the last rafter was found to not meet the joint strength requirement of FMVSS 221 School bus body joint strength.

Describe the safety risk:

A body Joint on a school bus that does not meet the joint strength requirement of FMVSS 221 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.:**

Daimler Truck North America

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:

TBB began an additional production shift in October 2022, with a slow ramp-up of production volumes and low overall volumes relative to the other production shift. In February 2023, TBB noticed a possible mis-installation of side sheet panels during this additional shift. TBB promptly corrected the problem and began an investigation of vehicles that could have had their side sheet panels installed during the third shift, which (given that vehicle assembly crosses multiple shifts) rendered this task difficult. Upon determining that some vehicles did have their side sheet panels installed in this shift, and that some of those may have been improperly installed, TBB Compliance immediately began an investigation. In late April 2023, Thomas Built Buses continued working to identify potentially affected vehicles and conducting strength testing. On May 4 2023, DTNA decided to initiate a voluntary noncompliance recall for certain Thomas Built Buses C2 school buses built on this production shift with the rear exterior at the last rafter that may not meet the joint strength requirements of FMVSS 221. There are no warranty claims, field or service reports, nor any known accidents, injuries, or deaths.

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: 07/07/2023

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 07/07/2023

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 07/07/2023

Planned Owner Notification End Date: 07/07/2023

Does DTNA plan to file inconsequentiality petition? Yes No

Manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL972

DTNA Representative;

Sam Geser

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Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs