

DAIMLER TRUCK

North America

Chronology for recall FL918 submitted on 07/24/2024

In March 2020, DTNA received a notification from the Office of Vehicle Safety and Compliance (OVSC) regarding a potential non-compliant emergency exit pushout window and door label that the agency had analyzed earlier and found compliant, and upon which DTNA in good faith relied. In April 2020, DTNA responded to the OVSC that, with standard rounding, the label-letters met the requirements and stated that the label should be considered compliant. At this time DTNA completed a review of warranty and field reports, and no reports or complaints were identified. In November 2020, DTNA received Information Request (IR) NEF-240DLi/OA-217-200317A from the OVSC. DTNA promptly responded to this IR and reiterated its position that 1) the labels met the requirements of FMVSS 217 following the agency's rules of rounding and precision and 2) were the exact same labels had previously been reviewed by the OVSC and found to be compliant. On January 31, 2022 DTNA received second IR from the OVSC seeking additional information but providing the option to declare a recall instead of responding to the agency's IR. In February 2022, in order to avoid a protracted dispute with the agency, DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary non-compliance recall on school buses manufactured with certain emergency exit pushout window and door labels. DTNA filed a petition for inconsequential noncompliance in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 556 in March 2022 and amended it in April 2022. On July 18, 2024, NHTSA notified DTNA that the petition was denied. Among other things, the Agency concluded that a lettering height of 4.9 cm as compared to the required 5 cm was consequential to motor vehicle safety. Following receipt of this notice, on July 24, 2024, DTNA decided to initiate a recall. As part of this process, DTNA conducted a further review of the affected vehicle population and identified and removed duplicate VINs that had been erroneously included in the original noncompliance report submission and added new models affected by the lettering height noncompliance.