



U.S. Department of Transportation

**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 15, 2025

25V694

Sam Geser
Daimler Trucks North America, LLC
4747 N Channel Ave
Portland, OR 97217

Subject: Insufficient Exterior Joint Strength/FMVSS 221

Dear Sam 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/SAF-T-LINER HDX2/2026

Mfr's Report Date: October 10, 2025

NHTSA Campaign Number: 25V694

Components:

STRUCTURE:BODY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 2

Problem Description:

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC (DTNA) is recalling certain 2026 Thomas Built SAF-T-LINER HDX2 school buses. Rear exterior joints may have been manufactured incorrectly, resulting in insufficient joint strength. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard number 221, "School Bus Body Joint Strength."

Consequence:

A school bus with insufficient joint strength may not adequately protect passengers in the event of a crash, increasing the risk of injury.

Remedy:

Dealers will add additional fasteners to secure the joints, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed December 9, 2025. Owners may contact DTNA customer service at 1-800-574-

0712. DTNA's number for this recall is F1026.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-888-275-9171), or go to www.nhtsa.gov.

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

Involved Component Not Supplied

Provide the part number, name and description of the component(s) involved in this recall as required by 49 USC § 30119 in an amended 573 in the "Involved Components" section through the NHTSA Recalls Portal.

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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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 Smith who may be reached by email at emily.c.smith@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Ansley

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