



U.S. Department of Transportation

**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 19, 2026

26V086

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

Subject: Heater Hose May Leak Hot Heating Coolant Inside Passenger Compartment

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 EFX/2023-2026
THOMAS BUILT BUSES/SAF-T-LINER HDX/2023-2026

Mfr's Report Date: February 13, 2026

NHTSA Campaign Number: 26V086

Components:

ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING:COOLING SYSTEM:HOSES/LINES/PIPING/FITTINGS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 2,843

Problem Description:

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC (DTNA) is recalling certain Thomas Built Buses 2023-2026 Saf-T-Liner EFX and Saf-T-Liner HDX school buses. The heater hose clamps may not have been tightened properly, causing the hose to disconnect and leak heating coolant inside the passenger compartment.

Consequence:

Contact with hot heating coolant may burn occupants, increasing the risk of injury.

Remedy:

The remedy is currently under development. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed April 14, 2026. Owners may contact DTNA customer service at 1-800-547-0712. DTNA's number for this recall is F1030.



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:

Remedy Not Supplied

Provide a description of the recall remedy as required by 49 CFR §573.6(8)(i), in an amended Part 573 Recall Report 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).

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 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