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**DAIMLER**

10V-341  
(3 pages)

Daimler Trucks North America  
Nasser Zamani  
Senior Manager  
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

July 26, 2010

Dan Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington D.C. 20590

**Re: Defect Information Report 10C-5, MBE900 and MBE4000 Grid Heater**

Mr. Smith

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Daimler Trucks North America LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 7,541 Freightliner, Freightliner Custom Chassis, Sterling, Thomas Built Buses, and Western Star, non school and school vehicles manufactured September 5, 2006, through June 30, 2010, and equipped with MBE900 or MBE4000 engines assembled with a grid heater which may short circuit and overheat potentially resulting in a fire in the engine compartment.

Attached is Daimler Trucks North America's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA  
Enclosure  
Certified Mail# 7006 3450 0003 7727 0605

A Daimler Company

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## Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

July 26, 2010

**(c)(1) Manufacturer:** Daimler Trucks North America LLC  
P.O. BOX 3849  
Portland, Oregon 97208  
(503) 745-5219

**Brands:** Freightliner, Freightliner Custom Chassis, Sterling,  
Thomas Built Buses, Western Star

**(c)(2) Vehicles identification:**

**Model(s) affected:** Freightliner: Cascadia, Century, Columbia, FLD, M2,  
Freightliner Custom Chassis: S2 106 CH,  
Sterling: Acterra, 7500, 8500, 9500  
Western Star: 4900

**Model Years affected:** 2007 through 2011

**Manufacture Dates:** September 5, 2006, through June 30, 2010

**Basis for determining population:** Vehicles equipped with specific MBE900 EPA04 and EPA07 model engines, and MBE4000 EPA07 model engines.

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:**

Detroit Diesel Corporation, C/o Daimler Trucks North America LLC

**(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 3,094**

Freightliner: Cascadia: 187, Century: 2, Columbia: 157, FLD: 13, M2: 1,867.

Freightliner Custom Chassis: S2 106 CH: 18

Sterling: Acterra: 172, 7500: 24, 8500: 4, 9500: 625,

Western Star: 4900: 25

**(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 100%**

**(c)(5) Description of the defect:** The intake air grid heater may short circuit and fail due to excessive internal temperatures.

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** A short circuited grid heater could result in a vehicle fire and injury to vehicle occupants.

**(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:**

Evobus Europe identified issues with grid heaters on bus models with engines similar to the MBE900 and MBE 4000 – October 2009

DD15 grid heater recall 09C-4 initiated – October 2009

DD13 grid heater recall 09C-5 initiated – October 2009

MBE900 and MBE 4000 investigation report submitted for review – November 2009

Determination that defect was related to motor vehicle safety – July 19, 2010

**(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data:** Not Applicable

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**(c)(8) (i) Remedial program:** An additional external relay will be connected in series with the battery supply to prevent battery connection to the grid heater when the vehicle is not running and when the grid heater control signal is absent. Repairs will be performed by Detroit Diesel Corporation (DDC) Authorized Repair Facilities.

**Reimbursement Plan:** Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

**(ii) Estimated Owner and Dealer Notification Date:** Customer notification will be by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately September 30, 2010  
Dealer notification was completed September 30, 2010

**(c)(9) Information for tire recalls:** Not Applicable

**(c)(10) Communications sent to manufacturers, dealers and owners:** Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

**(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number:** 10C-5