



September 27, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Recall Notification
2004~2012 Orion V and VII Transit Buses**

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On September 24, 2013 Daimler Buses North America (DBNA) determined a safety defect existed in certain 2004~2012 Orion V and VII transit buses and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports. Note – defect information contained within is identical to recall number 13E-050 assigned by NHTSA to Sure Power Inc., manufacturer of the defective component.

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Daimler Buses North America

Manufacturer's regulatory agent: Bill Nicolle
WPN Services (on behalf of Daimler Buses North America)
350 Hazelhurst Road
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. L5J 4T8.
Telephone: (416)624-3558

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VIN Range/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Orion V and VII	Certain 2004~2012	Currently under investigation

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:

The recall population was based on manufacturing records. The VIN range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

573.6(c)(2)(iv)

Identification of affected component:

Component: Integrated 12V/24V battery Equalizers & Convertors
Country of Origin: United States
Manufacturer: Sure Power Inc.
Contact Name: Mr. James Henley – Director of Quality Assurance
Address: 114 Old State Rd, Ellisville, MO 63021
Telephone No. : (636)207-3264 / JamesMHenley@Eaton.com

573.6(c)(3)

Total number of potentially affected vehicles: Under investigation

573.6(c)(4)

Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: Unknown

573.6(c)(5)

Defect Description:

Orion transit buses utilize a dual voltage electrical system consisting of 12 and 24 volt power. An equalizer balances the power needs of the vehicle between the two systems. The specific potting compound used in the Sure Power equalizer and convertor for insulation was found to be capable of conducting electricity once exposed to significant thermal energy. Once electrically conductive, the material is capable of self-heating and maintaining temperatures capable of accelerating a thermal incident. Thermal energy can be sourced by various electrical failures. Electrical failures have been traced to water intrusion or solder joint fatigue resulting from on-going expansion and contraction due to thermal cycling resulting in a high current short circuit and the possibility of a fire.

573.6(c)(6)Chronology :

Sept.11, 2013	DBNA notified by Sure Power of their intention to recall certain equalizers and convertors used in Orion buses. Sure Power recall assigned 13E-050 by NHTSA.
Sept.24, 2013	DBNA determined a safety defect existed in certain Orion buses and an investigation into affected vehicles manufactured by DBNA commenced.

573.6(c)(8)(i)

Program for remedying the defect:

DBNA will notify affected customers of this defect and the potential safety consequences. Subsequent notifications and the remedy – to change out the equalizer and or convertor – will be undertaken without charge to the customer, by Sure Power as per 13E-050 Part 573.

573.6(c)(8)(ii)

The estimated date for notification to customers: Target mid Nov. 2013 by DBNA

The estimated date to provide service bulletin: Target Nov.end 2013

The estimated date of completion of the notification: Target mid Jan 2014 by Sure Power

573.6(c)(9)

Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the service bulletin will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(10)

Proposed owner notification letter submission:

A draft of the initial owner notification letter by DBNA will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.6(c)(11)

Manufacturer's campaign number:

TDB.

Sincerely,



Bill Nicolle
WPN Services (on behalf of Daimler Buses North America)