

# DAIMLER

## Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

**FL-685**

**Date of Submission:** 06/26/2015

**Manufacturer:** Daimler Trucks North America LLC  
P.O. BOX 3849  
Portland, Oregon 97208

**Type of Report:**  Safety Defect  Non-Compliance

### Vehicle Information

**Model Yr. Start:** 2001 **Model Yr. End:** 2013

**Make:** Thomas Built Buses

**Model:** Saf-T-Liner Conventional, Saf-T-Liner ER, Saf-T-Liner MVP-EF, Saf-T-Liner EFX, Saf-T-Liner MVP ER, Saf-T-Liner FS65, Saf-T-Liner C2, Saf-T-Liner HDX, Vista and TL-960

**Production Dates:** **Begin:** 2/5/2001  
**End:** 5/29/2012

### Descriptive Information:

*School Buses*

**Number potentially involved:** 103,038 **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:** 39%

### Defect / Noncompliance Description

#### For this Defect/Noncompliance:

#### Describe the defect or noncompliance:

*The stem which joins the outside emergency door handle to the emergency door opening mechanism may potentially corrode. Excessive material loss of the stem due to corrosion could result in the outside handle separating from the door mechanism while trying to open the door from the exterior of the bus.*

#### If a noncompliance, provide the applicable FMVSS:

Check if this recall only affects products in certain geographic regions.

# DAIMLER

## **Describe the safety risk:**

*In the event of an emergency, a person on the outside of the bus may cause the handle to separate from the opening mechanism while trying to open the emergency exit, potentially delaying evacuation and increasing the risk of injury to the vehicles occupants.*

**If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component.**

## **Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination**

### **Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision.:**

*October 2014, Indian River School District School reports separation of rear emergency door handle, and an investigation began. October 2014 through December 2014 DTNA requested and received additional handles from the Indian River Schools. January 2015 Material analysis of returned samples suggested localized corrosion due to sealing gasket and ingress of water through handle retention pin as potential causes of corrosion. Further samples of handles were requested from multiple regions for study. April 2015 after review of returned samples DTNA initiated an extensive research program using industry corrosion and problem solving experts to identify causes and consequence of corrosion on emergency door handle stems. June 2015 DTNA decided to initiate a voluntary recall campaign to recall certain vehicles equipped with an emergency door design that leads to a high rate of door handle stem corrosion.*

## **Identify the Remedy**

### **Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement.**

*Stems will be inspected, and either replaced or protected against further corrosion. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities. Copies of the reimbursement plan will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.*

## **Identify the Recall Schedule**

### **Describe the recall schedule for notifications.:**

*Customer notification will be by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected*

**Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date:** 08/26/2015

**Planned Dealer Notification End Date:** 08/26/2015

**Planned Owner Notification Begin Date:** 08/26/2015

# DAIMLER

**Planned Owner Notification End Date:** 08/26/2015

**Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable):** FL-685

## **Manufactures Comments to NHTSA Staff**

*Use this field only as needed*

### **DTNA Representative;**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'J'.

Andy Jones  
Senior Manager  
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs