

Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

FL-797

Date of Submission: **October 5, 2018**

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: 2016 Model Yr. End: 2019

Make: *Thomas Built Buses*

Model: *Minotour*

Production Dates: Begin: 12/21/2015
End: 06/05/2018

Descriptive Information:

Certain Minotour school buses with 36" or 39" wide seats

Number potentially involved: 525 Estimated percentage of involve with defect: 100%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

The rear door on certain buses may not open wide enough to meet the unobstructed emergency egress area requirements of FMVSS 217

If a noncompliance, provide the applicable FMVSS:

FMVSS 217

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

Describe the safety risk:

If a rear door does not open wide enough, the bus will not meet the unobstructed emergency egress area requirements of FMVSS 217

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.:

In June of 2018, Thomas Built Buses identified a bus during production that did not meet the unobstructed area for emergency egress requirements of FMVSS 217. Thomas Built Buses uses a parallelepiped fixture to check the minimum opening and while doing this check, identified a minor interference at the upper hinged side of the door. DTNA opened an investigation to determine the scope of the issue. The bus was inspected to determine if the issue was related to manufacturing or design. The bus was determined to be properly manufactured. All of the different seating configurations available on the Minotour were evaluated to determine compliance with FMVSS 217. The issue was narrowed down to 36" and 39" wide seats from on manufacture; DTNA discovered that the condition only occurs when the 36" and 39" seats from this manufacturer are installed within 10" of the back wall. DTNA then searched production records to identify buses with these seating configurations. On October 5, 2018 DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary recall of certain Thomas Built Buses Minotour school buses with a potential noncompliance with FMVSS 217.

Identify the Remedy

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

The rear door slide system will be modified to increase the opening angle of the door. 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 made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date:	<i>12/03/2018</i>
Planned Dealer Notification End Date:	<i>12/03/2018</i>
Planned Owner Notification Begin Date:	<i>12/03/2018</i>
Planned Owner Notification End Date:	<i>12/03/2018</i>

Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable): *FL-797*

DTNA Representative;



Andy Jones
Manager
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs