



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 7, 2019

Mr. Antonio Mole
Daimler Vans USA, LLC
8501 Palmetto Commerce Pkwy
Ladson, SC 29456

NEF-150MR
19V-003

Subject: Driver Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Explode

Dear Mr. Mole:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Vans USA, 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:

FREIGHTLINER/SPRINTER 2500/2015-2017
FREIGHTLINER/SPRINTER 3500/2015-2017
MERCEDES BENZ/SPRINTER 2500/2015-2017
MERCEDES BENZ/SPRINTER 3500/2015-2017

Mfr's Report Date: January 8, 2019

NHTSA Campaign Number: 19V-003

Components:

AIR BAGS:FRONTAL:DRIVER SIDE INFLATOR MODULE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 71,301

Problem Description:

Daimler Vans USA, LLC (DVUSA) is recalling certain 2015-2017 Freightliner Sprinter 2500 and 3500 and Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 2500 and 3500 vehicles. These vehicles are equipped with certain air bag inflators assembled as part of the driver frontal air bag modules used as original equipment or replacement equipment. In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the driver frontal air bag, these inflators may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to absolute humidity and temperature cycling.

Consequence:

An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

Remedy:

DVUSA will notify owners, and dealers will replace the front driver air bag module, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin March 29, 2019. Owners may contact DVUSA customer service at 1-877-762-8267.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six 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.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kareem Habib".

Kareem Habib
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement