



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

February 27, 2020

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

NEF-150MR  
20V-079

**Subject:** Exhaust may Leak From Exhaust Flange Connection

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 1500/2019  
FREIGHTLINER/SPRINTER 2500/2019  
FREIGHTLINER/SPRINTER 3500/2019  
FREIGHTLINER/SPRINTER 4500/2019  
MERCEDES BENZ/SPRINTER 1500/2019  
MERCEDES BENZ/SPRINTER 2500/2019  
MERCEDES BENZ/SPRINTER 3500/2019  
MERCEDES BENZ/SPRINTER 4500/2019

**Mfr's Report Date:** February 12, 2020

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 20V-079

**Components:**

ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING:EXHAUST SYSTEM

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 4,385

**Problem Description:**

Daimler Vans USA, LLC (DVUSA) is recalling certain 2019 Mercedes Benz Sprinter and Freightliner Sprinter vehicles. The flange connection between the exhaust gas turbocharger and the exit to the diesel particulate filter may not be attached properly, potentially causing an exhaust gas leak.

**Consequence:**

An exhaust gas leak in the engine compartment increases the risk of a fire.

**Remedy:**

DVUSA will notify owners, and Mercedes-Benz or Freightliner Sprinter dealers will replace the flange seals and properly tighten the connection, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin March 27, 2020. Owners may contact DVUSA customer service at 1-877-762-8267. DVUSA's number for this recall is VS3FLABIND.

**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](http://www.safercar.gov).

NHTSA is missing critical, required information for this safety recall. This information must be supplied through the NHTSA Recalls Portal within 5 working days of confirming its accuracy:

- When a vehicle crash is not the potential occurrence, the evaluation must include a statement indicating the general type of injury to occupants of the vehicle, or to persons outside the vehicle, that can result from the defect or noncompliance, and a description of whatever prior warning may occur (49 CFR 577.5 (f)(2)).

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).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joshua Neff  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement