

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL-868

Date of Submission: *May 21, 2021*

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: 2008 Model Yr. End: 2021

Make: *Thomas Built Buses*

Model: *Minotour*

Production Dates: Begin: *01/23/2008* End: *06/04/2020*

Descriptive Information: *Certain Minotour School buses built on a GM chassis with an optional wheelchair lift*

Number potentially involved: *615* Estimated percentage of involve with defect: *100%*

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance: *On the affected Minotour vehicles, the driver may be able to release the park brake and shift the transmission out of Park and into a drive gear while the wheelchair lift is deployed.*

Describe the safety risk: *The potential for the vehicle to have forward or rearward mobility while the wheelchair lift is deployed may increase the risk of injury.*

Identify any warning which can precede or occur: *N/A*

If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component. : *N/A*

Involved Components

Component Name: *N/A*

Component Description: *N/A*

Component Part Number: *N/A*

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision: *In mid-August 2020, Thomas Built Buses received a report from the field indicating that a Minotour bus could be moved while with wheelchair lift door was open and the wheelchair lift was completely stowed. A review was conducted of the functionality on 2 Minotour buses with different activation options using the NHTSA FMVSS 403/404 test procedures as a basis for examining whether the system complies, and no fault was found at the time. The functionality of the two different Minotour lift activation systems, while apparently meeting the requirements of FMVSS, were not identical. TBB Engineering started a project to review the lift activation systems and make modifications in order to provide consistency in the product options. At the end of August 2020 a potential product improvement was reviewed for functionality. Engineering began the work required to release the new design into production. In September 2020, TBB Engineering questioned the initial observations made in August. October 2020, another review was conducted on a Minotour bus. A discrepancy was identified in the operation observed in August and that observed in October. TBB Engineering began an in depth review of the wiring systems on both of the buses that were reviewed. On November 3, 2020, DTNA determined that a non-compliance to FMVSS 404 may exist on certain Thomas Built Buses Minotour vehicles. Final owner letters were sent for this recall on May 19, 2021.*

Identify the Remedy

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement. *The wheelchair lift wiring will be modified as needed. 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: 01/07/2021
Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 01/07/2021
Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 01/07/2021
Planned Owner Notification End Date: 01/07/2021
Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL-868

DTNA Representative;



Larissa Stoffels
Executive Manager, Vehicle Safety
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs