

## Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

**FL-873**

**Date of Submission:** *January 20, 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:** 2021      **Model Yr. End:** 2021  
**Make:** *Thomas Built Buses*      **Model:** *Saf-T-Liner EFX*  
**Production Dates:** **Begin:** *3/19/2020*      **End:** *3/19/2020*

**Descriptive Information:** *School buses manufactured with a certain steering arm configuration with air disc brakes identified by the axle assembly supplier.*

**Model Yr. Start:** 2021      **Model Yr. End:** 2021  
**Make:** *Thomas Built Buses*      **Model:** *Saf-T-Liner HDX*  
**Production Dates:** **Begin:** *6/4/2020*      **End:** *7/9/2020*

**Descriptive Information:** *School buses manufactured with a certain steering arm configuration with air disc brakes identified by the axle assembly supplier.*

**Number potentially involved:** 6      **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:** 100%

### Defect / Noncompliance Description

#### For this Defect/Noncompliance:

**Describe the defect or noncompliance:** *A single caliper-mounting bolt may be under torqued. On certain vehicles, one of the six brake caliper mounting bolts on the driver side steer axle may be incorrectly torqued. This could result in surrounding caliper bolts to loosen.*

**Describe the safety risk:** *Insufficiently torqued bolts may not provide adequate clamping force between the brake caliper and brake anchor plate potentially resulting in reduced brake effectiveness. Reduced brake effectiveness could lead to a vehicle crash.*

**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

**Name:** Caliper Mounting Bolt    **Description:** Caliper Mounting Bolt    **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.:** *August – September 2020, DTNA truck manufacturing plant during a quality audit, a single loose caliper mounting bolt was identified. DTNA notified the axle assembly supplier and began a plant inspection. The inspection identified 8 of 148 vehicles with a under torqued mounting bolt in the same fastener location. During this analysis, the axle assembly supplier had identified a single operator not following the standard torquing procedures for one caliper mounting bolt on one configuration of axle, but it was unknown if this created a safety risk. October – December 2020, a performance study to understand the impact of that single loose bolt was performed by the caliper suppliers. The study indicated that if that bolt were loose, there would be a gradual loosening of the adjacent bolts over time. In reviewing this study, it was found that this was a worst-case scenario and may not be representative of typical customer use. January 14, 2021, out of abundance of caution and with no field reports or warranty of loose caliper bolts, DTNA decided to initiate a voluntary safety recall for vehicles identified by the axle assembly supplier equipped with air disc brakes and a certain steering arm configuration manufactured within the above reported dates.*

## Identify the Remedy

**Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture’s plan for reimbursement.** *Potentially affected vehicles will be inspected and repaired as necessary. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities. Customer notification will be done by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected. Details of the reimbursement plan will be included in the owner’s notification letter.*

## 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:** 03/19/2021

**Planned Dealer Notification End Date:** 03/19/2021

**Planned Owner Notification Begin Date:** 03/19/2021

**Planned Owner Notification End Date:** 03/19/2021

**Manufacture’s identification code for this recall (if applicable):** FL-873

**DTNA Representative;**



Larissa Stoffels

Executive Manager, Vehicle Safety  
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs