

Amended Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

FL-884

Date of Submission: *June 15, 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:** 2022

Make: Thomas Built Buses

Model: Saf-T-Liner HDX, Saf-T-Liner C2, Safe-T-Liner EFX School Buses

Production Dates: **Begin:** 01/12/2021 **End:** 04/06/2021

Descriptive Information: Vehicles built with certain suspect tie rod arm bolts (N308676020022) and steering arm bolts (N308676020025).

Number potentially involved: 1,738 **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:** 2%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance: Suspect bolts used to assemble Detroit front axle assemblies have a lengthwise "seam" defect potentially leading to bolt failure.

Describe the safety risk: Single bolt fracture may lead to decrease in steering response and both bolts failing would lead to complete loss of steering/directional control of the vehicle increasing the risk of a crash.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur: Decrease in steering response

If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component:

Company Name: Cold Heading Company

Country: USA

Address 1: 21777 Hoover Rd

Address 2:

City: Warren

State: MI

Zip/Postal Code: 48089

First Name: Ginger

Last Name: Anderson

Position: Manager of Corporate Quality

Email: ganderson@coldheading.com

Phone: 586.497.7000 x6222

Involved Components

Component Name: Steering Arm Bolt, Tie Rod Bolt

Component Description:

Component Part Number: N308676020025, N308676020022

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision:

Late February, 2021, despite having no warranty claims nor other indications of failures on customer vehicles, DTNA axle assembly plant reported tie rod bolt and steering arm bolt quality concerns and began containment. Quality alert was issued for axle assembly plant locations. Early March, 2021 DTNA defined suspect bolt lots and cleared inventory. Suspect bolts were sent to supplier for additional analysis. Late March, 2021, DTNA received initial metallurgical report for supplier showing potential for long term fatigue failure. Discussions with supplier ongoing. Early April 2021, even though DTNA is not aware of any field failures related to this concern, DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall while continuing to investigate the population.

Identify the Remedy

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement: *Tie rod arm bolts and steering arm bolts will be replaced. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities. 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: 06/10/2021

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 06/10/2021

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 06/10/2021

Planned Owner Notification End Date: 06/10/2021

Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL-884

DTNA Representative;



Larissa Stoffels

Executive Manager, Vehicle Safety
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs