



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 5, 2021

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

NEF-107MR
21V-513

Subject: Automatic Locking Retractor Malfunction/FMVSS 208

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 1500/2021
FREIGHTLINER/SPRINTER 2500/2021
FREIGHTLINER/SPRINTER 3500/2021
FREIGHTLINER/SPRINTER 4500/2021
MERCEDES-BENZ/METRIS/2021
MERCEDES-BENZ/SPRINTER 1500/2021
MERCEDES-BENZ/SPRINTER 2500/2021
MERCEDES-BENZ/SPRINTER 3500/2021
MERCEDES-BENZ/SPRINTER 4500/2021

Mfr's Report Date: July 7, 2021

NHTSA Campaign Number: 21V-513

Components:

SEAT BELTS
SEAT BELTS:FRONT:RETRACTOR
SEAT BELTS:REAR/OTHER:RETRACTOR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,514

Problem Description:

Daimler Vans USA, LLC (DVUSA) is recalling certain 2021 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter, Metris, and Freightliner Sprinter vehicles equipped with Automatic Locking Retractor (ALR) seat belt assemblies. The seat belt automatic locking retractors may deactivate early, which can prevent the child restraint system from securing properly. As such, these assemblies fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard number 208, "Occupant Crash Protection."

Consequence:

An unsecured child restraint system can increase the risk of injury during a crash.

Remedy:

Dealers will inspect and replace the seat belt assemblies, as necessary, free of charge. Owners may contact DVUSA's 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.nhtsa.gov.

We note that your report quotes Autoliv's original filing and states that this matter does not have a safety risk. In our view, this statement has no force or effect in terms of Daimler Vans USA, LLC's obligation to undertake and complete the recall, and NHTSA does not agree with it.

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

Your company's program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of your company's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with § 573.13. Your company's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by § 573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in your company's report to NHTSA. If your company submits one or more general reimbursement plans, your company shall update each plan every two years (§ 573.13). If the vehicles are new and would be covered under the manufacturer's warranty program, please state that in the remedy section of your filing.

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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.

Daimler Vans USA, LLC's contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement