

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL-904

Date of Submission: November 03, 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: 2020 **Model Yr. End:** 2022

Make: *Thomas Built Buses*

Model: *Saf-T-Liner HDX, Saf-T-Liner EFX*

Production Dates: **Begin:** 10/01/2019 **End:** 08/19/2021

Descriptive Information: *Certain EFX & HDX model school busses manufactured 10/01/2019 and 08/19/2021.*

Number potentially involved: 1434 **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:** 1%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

On the affected vehicles, the nut for the power cable stud on the alternator may not have been torqued properly.

Describe the safety risk:

Arcing due to a loose cable connection on an unfused power cable may increase the risk of a fire. To date, however, there are no reported injuries or deaths related to this issue.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur:

The battery charge light on the dash instrument cluster may indicate a problem with the alternator and cable connection.

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

There are no defective components on the bus. The defect is related to the installation at Thomas Built Buses

Involved Components

Component Name: Nut

Component Description: NUT-HEX,FLG,LOCK, 5/16-18,ZN AL

Component Part Number: 23-13861-105

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

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

At the end of July 2021, DTNA received a notification from a dealer of a bus with a loose power cable at the alternator. The dealer reported they inspected four additional units and found the nut that secures the cable to the alternator was not fully torqued. In August, DTNA began an investigation to determine the scope of the issue. At approximately the same time and thru October 2021, DTNA undertook a detailed review of warranty and field reports. Additional instances were identified that may be related to possible loose cable connections at the alternator. In total, 17 instances were identified potentially related to loose positive cable connections at the alternator. There was one occurrence, found in a warranty claim, where the dealer linked the alternator cable connection to a loose cable connection. On October 28, 2021, DTNA with an abundance of caution, decided to conduct a voluntary recall campaign on certain Thomas Built Buses Saf-T-Liner HDX and EFX school buses that may have a loose power cable connections at the alternator. There are no reported injuries or deaths related to this issue.

Identify the Remedy

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement.

The alternator power cable connection will be inspected and torqued if necessary. 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: 12/27/2021

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 12/27/2021

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 12/27/2021

Planned Owner Notification End Date: 12/27/2021

Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL-904

DTNA Representative;

Tiffani Torgeson

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Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs