

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL-921

Date of Submission: March 11, 2022

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:** 2023

Make: Thomas Built Buses

Model: Saf-T-Liner EFX

Production Dates: **Begin:** 6/6/2019 **End:** 11/30/2021

Type: School Bus

Descriptive Information: Saf-T-Liner EFX school buses with a potential interference of certain chassis cross-member bolts and certain passenger seat floor mounting bolts

Number potentially involved: 539 vehicles **Estimated percentage of involve with defect:**
75%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

On the affected EFX school buses there may be certain passenger seats that have a mounting bolt that may contact a chassis cross-member bolt. Over time, the passenger seat bolt may fatigue from vibration and side loading. A broken seat mounting bolt may impact the ability of the seat to meet the seat and belt requirements of FMVSS 210 and/or FMVSS 222.

If a noncompliance, provide the applicable FMVSS: FMVSS 210 and FMVSS 222

Describe the safety risk:

A broken seat bolt may impact the ability of the seat to meet the requirements of FMVSS 210 and or FMVSS 222. This may increase the risk of injury to the occupants in the event of a crash.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur: NA

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

TBB 170727 - BOLT HEX FLANGE 7/16-14X2.0 SAE GRADE 8.

Involved Components

Component Name: Fastener

Component Description: BOLT HEX FLANGE 7/16-14X2.0 SAE GRADE 8

Component Part Number: 170727

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

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

In January 2022 DTNA received report from a customer of broken passenger seat floor mounting bolts. Thomas Built Buses (TBB) immediately initiated a quality containment on all EFX buses with similar configurations and began an investigation to determine the scope and potential consequences of the issue. TBB promptly began inspecting EFX buses on property and identified a certain cross-member location that may , under certain conditions of tolerance stack-up, lead to interference between a seat mounting bolt and a cross-member bolt. TBB then promptly developed a predictive model, and validated it with inspection of EFX buses on property, that could compare seat and cross-member locations to identify suspect buses. At the same time, TBB reviewed FMVSS compliance testing data to determine if a broken bolt could affect the compliance of the seats. In March 2022 as soon as DTNA had sufficient information from its investigation, DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary non-compliance and safety recall on certain EFX school buses with a configuration that may allow a passenger seat mounting bolt and a chassis cross member bolt align and make contact.

Identify the Remedy

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

Spacer will be added between the frame rails and body floor in the affected area on the affected buses to provide proper clearance between the passenger seat mounting bolt and a chassis cross member bolt. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Truck 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 Truck North America records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date: 05/09/2022

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 05/09/2022

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 05/09/2022

Planned Owner Notification End Date: 05/09/2022

Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL-921

DTNA Representative;



Tiffani Torgeson
Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs