Defect / Noncompliance Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL939

Date of Submission: 06/16/2022

Manufacturer: Daimler Truck North America LLC

P.O. BOX 3849

Portland, Oregon 97208

Vehicle Information

Model Yr. Start: 2021 Model Yr. End: 2023

Make: Thomas Built Buses
Model: Sat-T-Liner C2 Jouley

Production Dates: Begin: 08/19/2019 End: 02/19/2022

Descriptive Information:

On certain TBB Saf-T-Liner C2 Jouley electric buses, the high voltage cable could have the connector terminal improperly crimped.

Basis for Determination of the Recall Population:

All TBB Saf-T-Liner C2 Jouley buses built in the production range listed above.

Number potentially involved: 185

Estimated percentage of involved with defect: 1%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

A ring terminal connector on the high voltage cable may not be properly crimped which could cause the cable to fail inside of the junction box enclosure.

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Describe the safety risk:

A high voltage cable separation could lead to the bus shutting down due to a loss of electrical power or a short to ground, which could increase the risk of a fire. In the unlikely event of a school bus shutdown without the ability to resume operations, there could be an increased risk of injury due to the need to transfer passengers to alternate transportation in a potentially uncontrolled traffic condition.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur:

Separation of the cable could be indicated by power flickering or the like. However, the cable end with the suspect crimp is not easily inspected without decommission of the High Voltage system (which requires specific training) followed by removal of the access panel cover on the junction box making it unlikely to be seen in a normal pre-trip inspection.

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

Supplier: Proterra

Contact Name: Kelly Irving, Customer Quality Manager

Business address: 1 Whitlee Ct. Greenville, SC 29607

Business telephone number: 864.641.6044

Involved Components

Component Name: CBL-HV, HVJB-BATTERIES 1, B2

Component Description: High Voltage Battery Cable

Component Part Number: 66-18372-188

Component's country of origin: USA

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

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

On May 20, 2022, the supplier for DTNA's junction box and wiring components, Proterra, notified DTNA that a single incident, which occurred on a Jouley bus, was likely the result of an improper crimp of a high voltage wire within a junction box. At this time, Proterra did not declare a recall. DTNA staff promptly began an investigation and, in parallel, plant containment steps. Upon information and belief, and based on DTNA's best understanding of the information available at this time, the issue appears to arise from an improper high voltage wire crimp. On June 8, 2022 and with the limited information available from its expedited investigation, DTNA declared a recall. The following day, DTNA contacted NHTSA to communicate the issue and next steps. DTNA's investigation uncovered two claims related to the primary failed part. During the course of the investigation, DTNA discovered one additional warranty claim for a failure at the opposite connector end of the high voltage cable in July of 2021. It is unclear what the failure mode was nor whether this was associated with the same defect. At this time, DTNA is not aware of any injuries or fatalities related to these incidents.

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Identify the Remedy

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

Inspection and repair or replacement of the cable, if required, will be performed by certified HV3 Daimler Truck North America authorized service facilities. Daimler Truck North America shall be offering a refund for owner-paid repairs covered by this recall if the repair was performed prior to the date indicated in the reimbursement plan, which will be posted with owner's notification letter. Owners are directed to seek reimbursement through authorized dealers.

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:08/06/2022Planned Dealer Notification End Date:08/06/2022Planned Owner Notification Begin Date:08/06/2022Planned Owner Notification End Date:08/06/2022

Does DTNA plan to file inconsequentiality petition? (Yes x No

Manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL939

DTNA Representative;

Tiffani Torgeson

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Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs