

Defect / Noncompliance Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL-843

Date of Submission: 08/10/2022

Manufacturer: Daimler Truck North America LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208

Type of Report: Safety Defect Non-Compliance

Vehicle Information

Model Yr. Start: 2011 **Model Yr. End:** 2021

Make: Thomas Built Buses

Model: Saf-T-Liner HDX

Production Dates: **Begin:** 10/21/2009 **End:** 12/16/2019

Descriptive Information: Certain Saf-T-Liner HDX School Buses built with a wall mounted barrier at the 1st rafter on the passenger side manufactured within the above dates.

Basis for Determination of the Recall Population: All HDX school buses built with wall mounted barrier at the first rafter on passenger side after -10/21/2009, when FMVSS 571.222 changed school bus barrier requirements.

Number potentially involved: 7601

Estimated percentage of involved with defect: 100%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

On the affected school buses, the forward barrier was determined not to meet the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 222, S5.2.3: Barrier performance forward. When 5/8 inch of aesthetic foam was added to seat barriers for styling purposes, FMVSS 222 changed the conditions of the seat barrier test with which the prior seat complied. The amount of energy absorbed by the seat barrier under the revised test did not meet the specification standard 5.2 of 452 joules / person within the first 356 mm of deflection.

Describe the safety risk:

In the affected population, the forward barrier was determined not to meet the requirements of S5.2.3 of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 222. In the event of a crash, if the occupant contacts the barrier they may experience higher impact than intended, which may result in injury to the occupant. There have been no reported injuries or accidents related to this defect.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur:

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

Thomas Built Bus manufactured parts

Involved Components

Component Name: Wall Mounted Barrier

Component Description: Wall Mount Barrier High Back Foam

Component Part Number: 159527, 159528, 159529

NOTE: If a Component that contains the defect or noncompliance was manufactured by a different manufacturer from the reporting manufacturer, list the following:

Component's country of origin: US

Business address:

Business telephone number:

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

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

October 30, 2019, NHTSA notified DTNA of potential noncompliance with FMVSS 222, S5.2.3: Barrier performance forward relating to certain barriers equipped on the Saf-T-Liner HDX School Buses. Based on the information provided by NHTSA's testing, DTNA began to investigate the issue to evaluate the potential noncompliance and to determine the scope and establish the potentially affected population. November 2019 DTNA requested a visit to NHTSA's test facility to review findings. On December 11, 2019, DTNA visited the NHTSA test facility to review test procedure and findings with NHTSA. On December 17, 2019, DTNA determined that a non-compliance exists on certain vehicles built with the suspect barrier mounted at the 1st rafter on the passenger side. The issue was that a purely aesthetic piece of foam changed the technicalities of how structural testing is performed, resulting in barrier with the foam not passing the amended FMVSS 222, S5.2.3 requirement. On January 16, 2020, DTNA submitted a petition seeking exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. 30118 (d) and 49 C.F.R. Part 556 on the basis that a noncompliance with FMVSS 222 is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. On or about August 4, 2022, DTNA received notice from NHTSA that petition was not approved. On August 10 2022, DTNA filed the amended DIR to begin the process of recalling those Barriers upon receiving the notification of NHTSA's determination regarding the petition. I mid-August 2022, DTNA refiled this recall at the request of the agency to supersede 19V899.

Identify the Remedy

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

Daimler Trucks North America is currently working on a plan for repairs. 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: 10/04/2022

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 10/04/2022

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 10/04/2022

Planned Owner Notification End Date: 10/04/2022

Does DTNA plan to file inconsequentiality petition? Yes No

Manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL-843

DTNA Representative;



Sam Geser
Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs