

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

23V-846

Manufacturer Name : Daimler Trucks North America, LLC

Submission Date : DEC 14, 2023

NHTSA Recall No. : 23V-846

Manufacturer Recall No. : FL987



Manufacturer Information :

Population :

Manufacturer Name : Daimler Trucks North America, LLC

Number of potentially involved : 456

Address : 4747 N. Channel Avenue

Estimated percentage with defect : 68 %

Portland OR 97217-3849

Company phone : 800-745-8000

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2023-2024 THOMAS BUILT BUSES SAF-T-LINER C2 JOULEY

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

Descriptive Information : In certain Saf-T-Liner C2 Jouley electric school buses equipped with a specific high voltage junction box, fasteners at the joint connecting the high voltage inverter cable to the associated hardware may have been under torqued. Vehicles outside the recall population are equipped with a different type of high voltage junction box.

Production Dates : FEB 28, 2022 - AUG 28, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : In certain model year 2023 and 2024 Saf-T-Liner C2 Jouley electric school buses equipped with a specific high voltage junction box, fasteners at the joint connecting the high voltage inverter cable to the associated hardware may have been under torqued.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : On the affected vehicles, if the joint is under torqued, when power is sent to the high voltage inverter cable, this may result in electrical arcing between the high voltage inverter cable and hardware. If arcing is detected, the high voltage system is designed to shut down power to the vehicle which in this case could lead to loss of motive power without prior warning, increasing the risk of crash.

Description of the Cause : During the production process, fasteners on an inverter cable in the high voltage junction box were under torqued.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : No warning or detectability.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : High Voltage Junction Box

Component Description : Power Distribution Unit (High Voltage)

Component Part Number : 66-28043-000

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Daimler Truck North America

Address : 4555 N Channel Ave.
Portland Oregon 97217

Country : United States

Chronology :

On or about November 22, 2023, DTNA was notified through plant quality reporting processes of a report from the field submitted the prior week of a vehicle with a no start condition. An Electric Vehicle technician inspected the vehicle and found a loose fastener in the high voltage junction box. DTNA immediately began investigating this finding to understand whether the issue was an isolated one or a potentially broader issue. As a result, DTNA placed all units on hold at the plants and began a thorough inspection of the fastener hardware in the high voltage junction box joints. DTNA also initiated a review of torque values on the fasteners for vehicles at its facility. At the same time, DTNA reviewed its records and identified a field report submitted in June 2023 involving a loss of motive power which now appeared to be potentially related to the same issue. On or around December 07, 2023, DTNA received the final report on torque values for units onsite at the plants which indicated the presence of additional vehicles with under torqued fasteners in the high voltage junction box. On December 07, 2023, DTNA decided to initiate a safety recall for this issue. DTNA is aware of two field reports involving the same failure mode as the condition described above. Although the risk of arcing exists, DTNA is not aware of any occurrence of thermal propagation related to this issue.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : TBB is preparing the remedy which is currently under development. Repairs will be performed free of charge by Daimler Truck North America authorized service facilities. Details of the reimbursement plan will be included in the owner's notification letter. Owners are directed to seek reimbursement through authorized dealers.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Vehicles that receive the recall remedy will have sufficiently torqued fasteners in the high voltage junction box.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : A digital torque tool was implemented in production to record and verify the torque on this joint as of November 20, 2023.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : FEB 12, 2024 - FEB 12, 2024

Planned Owner Notification Date : FEB 12, 2024 - FEB 12, 2024

* NR - Not Reported