



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-033

Date Opened: 08/30/2006

Principal Investigator: Bruce York

Subject: Steering Column Weld Cracks

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC

Products: 2005 Freightliner Century Class

Population: 13,688 (ESTIMATED)

Problem Description: Weak or incomplete welds may result in steering column failures. These steering column failures can result in difficulty controlling the vehicle.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description Of Other: Field reports describing weld failures on the steering column.

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Bruce York

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: Early Warning aggregate data submitted to NHTSA by Freightliner suggests that a steering (EWR code 01) problem exists for the 2005 Century class vehicles. The count of field reports submitted for the first quarter of 2006 was significantly higher than the average of the previous 6 quarters for the aggregate steering data.

Further review of the EWR data found field reports that described steering column failures as a result of welds cracking or breaking.

A PE is warranted to ascertain the seriousness of this problem.

GV
9/5/06