



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

AUG 03 2007

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Richard Van Laar
International Truck and Engine Corp.
3033 Wayne Trace
P.O. Box 10088
Fort Wayne, IN 46850-0088

NVS-214bby
RQ07-001

Dear Mr. Van Laar,

This letter is to inform you that the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has opened a Recall Query (RQ07-001) to investigate engine compartment fires in 2005 thru 2006 Model Year (MY) International CESB model vehicles. This letter is to request additional information to assist us in our investigation.

This office has received Early Warning aggregate data submitted to NHTSA by International that suggests that a fire (EWR code 23) problem exists for the 2005 thru 2006 CESB model vehicles. The aggregate data count of fire related warranty claims has been steadily increasing over the last 6 quarters.

Further review of the EWR data found field reports that described engine compartment fires resulting from various wire harness routing issues, grounding and short circuits. These failures are very similar to failures identified in a recall (04V-400) announced by International that identifies multiple causes of fires in 2005 RESB model vehicles.

Unless otherwise stated in the text, the following definitions apply to these information requests:

- **Subject Vehicles:** All MY 2005 through 2006 International CESB model vehicles.
- **Peer Vehicles:** All MY 2005 International RESB model vehicles subject to recall 04V-400.
- **Alleged defect:** Engine compartment fires, engine compartment electrical harness abrading or short circuiting, power steering pump supply hose abrading or failures, or oil leaks from the oil pressure switch or valve cover gaskets in the subject vehicles.
- **International:** International Truck and Engine Corporation, all of its past and present officers and employees, whether assigned to its principal offices or any of its field or other locations, including all of its divisions, subsidiaries (whether or not incorporated)



and affiliated enterprises and all of their headquarters, regional, zone and other offices and their employees, and all agents, contractors, consultants, attorneys and law firms and other persons engaged directly or indirectly (e.g., employee of a consultant) by or under the control of International (including all business units and persons previously referred to), who are or, in or after 1996, were involved in any way with any of the following related to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles:

- a. design, engineering, analysis, modification or production (e.g. quality control) of subject components;
 - b. testing, assessment or evaluation of subject components;
 - c. consideration, or recognition of potential or actual defects, reporting, record-keeping and information management, (e.g., complaints, field reports, warranty information, part sales), analysis, claims, or lawsuits.
- **Document:** "Document(s)" is used in the broadest sense of the word and shall mean all original written, printed, typed, recorded, or graphic matter whatsoever, however produced or reproduced, of every kind, nature, and description, and all non-identical copies of both sides thereof, including, but not limited to, papers, letters, memoranda, correspondence, communications, electronic mail (e-mail) messages (existing in hard copy and/or in electronic storage), faxes, mailgrams, telegrams, cables, telex messages, notes, annotations, working papers, drafts, minutes, records, audio and video recordings, data, databases, other information bases, summaries, charts, tables, graphics, other visual displays, photographs, statements, interviews, opinions, reports, newspaper articles, studies, analyses, evaluations, interpretations, contracts, agreements, jottings, agendas, bulletins, notices, announcements, instructions, blueprints, drawings, as-builts, changes, manuals, publications, work schedules, journals, statistical data, desk, portable and computer calendars, appointment books, diaries, travel reports, lists, tabulations, computer printouts, data processing program libraries, data processing inputs and outputs, microfilms, microfiches, statements for services, resolutions, financial statements, governmental records, business records, personnel records, work orders, pleadings, discovery in any form, affidavits, motions, responses to discovery, all transcripts, administrative filings and all mechanical, magnetic, photographic and electronic records or recordings of any kind, including any storage media associated with computers, including, but not limited to, information on hard drives, floppy disks, backup tapes, and zip drives, electronic communications, including but not limited to, the Internet and shall include any drafts or revisions pertaining to any of the foregoing, all other things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated by International, any other data compilations from which information can be obtained, translated if necessary, into a usable form and any other documents. For purposes of this request, any document, which contains any note, comment, addition, deletion, insertion, annotation, or otherwise comprises a non-identical copy of another document shall be treated as a separate document subject to production. In all cases where original and any non-identical copies are not available, "document(s)" also means any identical copies of the original and all non-identical copies thereof. Any document, record, graph, chart, film or photograph originally produced in color must be provided in color. Furnish all documents whether

verified by the manufacturer or not. If a document is not in the English language, provide both the original document and an English translation of the document.

- **Other terms:** To the extent that they are used in these information requests, the terms "claim," "consumer complaint," "dealer field report," "field report," "fire," "fleet," "good will," "make," "model," "model year," "notice," "property damage," "property damage claim," "rollover," "type," "warranty," "warranty adjustment," and "warranty claim," whether used in singular or in plural form, have the same meaning as found in 49 CFR 579.4.

In order for my staff to evaluate the alleged defect, certain information is required. Please provide numbered responses to the following information requests. When documents are produced, the documents shall be produced in an identified, organized manner that corresponds with the organization of this information request letter (including all individual requests and subparts). When documents are produced and the documents would not, standing alone, be self-explanatory, the production of documents shall be supplemented and accompanied by explanation.

Please repeat the applicable request verbatim above each response. After International's response to each request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered. If requested information is unavailable, so state and provide a brief explanation. Along with your written response, please provide this information in Microsoft Word 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "IR Response."

1. State, by model and model year, the number of subject vehicles International has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States. Separately, for each subject vehicle manufactured to date state the following:
 - a. vehicle identification number;
 - b. model;
 - c. model year;
 - d. date of manufacture;
 - e. date warranty coverage commenced;
 - f. the State in the United States where the vehicle containing the subject engine was originally sold or leased (or delivered for sale or lease).

Provide the table in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "PRODUCTION DATA." See Enclosure 1, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table designed for this submission.

2. State the number of each of the following, received by International, or of which International is otherwise aware, which relate to the alleged defect in the subject and peer vehicles.
 - a. consumer complaints, including those from fleet operators;
 - b. field reports, including dealer field reports;

- c. reports involving a crash, injury, or fatality, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a subject vehicle, property damage claims, consumer complaints, or field reports;
- d. third-party arbitration proceedings where International is or was a party to the arbitration; and,
- e. lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which International is or was a defendant or codefendant.

For subparts "a" through "e," state the total number of each item (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately for each model and model year. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a crash occurred are to be counted as a crash report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

In addition, for items "c" through "e," provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and Internationals assessment of the problem, with a summary of the significant underlying facts and evidence. For items "d" and "e", identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed.

3. Separately for each item (complaint, report, claim, notice, or matter) within the scope of your response to Request No. 2, state the following information:
 - a. Internationals file number or other identifier used;
 - b. the category of the item, as identified in Request No. 2 (i.e., consumer complaint, field report, etc.);
 - c. vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person), address, and telephone number;
 - d. vehicle's VIN;
 - e. vehicle's make, model and model year;
 - f. vehicle's mileage at time of incident;
 - g. incident date;
 - h. incident state;
 - i. report or claim date;
 - j. whether a crash is alleged;
 - k. whether property damage is alleged;
 - l. number of alleged injuries, if any;
 - m. number of alleged fatalities, if any;
 - n. whether the item is related to the alleged defect;
 - o. whether or not International received a subrogation claim regarding the incident (Y/N);
 - p. alleged cause of the failure;
 - q. complaint summary;
 - r. consumer comments; and,
 - s. Internationals assessment of the allegation;

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "REQUEST NUMBER TWO DATA." See Enclosure 1, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table designed for this submission.

4. Produce electronic copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of Request No. 2. Organize the documents separately by category (i.e., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) and describe the method International used for organizing the documents. These documents should include any photographs that were submitted with or taken as a result of the item.
5. State, by model and model year, a total count for all of the following categories of claims, collectively, that have been paid by International to date where the alleged defect occurred on the subject or peer vehicles: warranty claims; extended warranty claims; claims for good will services that were provided; field, zone, or similar adjustments and reimbursements; and warranty claims or repairs made in accordance with a procedure specified in a technical service bulletin. Separately, for each such claim, state the following information:
 - a. international claim number;
 - b. vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person) and telephone number;
 - c. VIN;
 - d. vehicle's make, model, and model year;
 - e. repair date;
 - f. vehicle mileage at time of repair;
 - g. repairing dealer's or facility's name, telephone number, city and state or ZIP code;
 - h. labor operation number;
 - i. problem code;
 - j. causal part (if identified);
 - k. replacement part number(s) and description(s);
 - l. repair procedure performed;
 - m. concern stated by customer; and
 - n. comments, by dealer/technician relating to claim and/or repair;

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "WARRANTY DATA." See Enclosure 1, Data Collection Disc, for a pre-formatted table designed for this submission.

6. Describe in detail the search criteria used by International to identify the claims identified in response to Request No. 5, including the labor operations, problem codes, part numbers and any other pertinent parameters used. Provide a list of all labor operations, labor operation descriptions, problem codes, and problem code descriptions applicable to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles. State, by make and model year, the terms of the new vehicle warranty coverage offered by International on the subject vehicles (i.e., the number of months and mileage for which coverage is provided and the vehicle systems that are covered). Describe any extended warranty coverage option(s) related to the alleged defect that International offered for the subject vehicles and state by option, model, and model year, the number of vehicles that are covered under each such extended warranty.

7. Produce electronic copies of all service, warranty, and other documents that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles, that International has issued to any dealers, regional or zone offices, field offices, fleet purchasers, or other entities. This includes, but is not limited to, bulletins, advisories, informational documents, training documents, or other documents or communications, with the exception of standard shop manuals. Also include the latest draft copy of any communication that International is planning to issue within the next 120 days.
8. Describe all assessments, analyses, tests, test results, studies, surveys, simulations, investigations, inquiries and/or evaluations (collectively, "actions") that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject or peer vehicles that have been conducted, are being conducted, are planned, or are being planned by, or for, International. For each such action, provide the following information:
 - a. action title or identifier;
 - b. the actual or planned start date;
 - c. the actual or expected end date;
 - d. brief summary of the subject and objective of the action;
 - e. engineering group(s)/supplier(s) responsible for designing and for conducting the action; and,
 - f. a brief summary of the findings and/or conclusions resulting from the action.

For each action identified, provide electronic copies of all documents related to the action, regardless of whether the documents are in interim, draft, or final form. Organize the documents chronologically by action.

9. Identify and describe all modifications or changes made by, or on behalf of International in the design, material composition, manufacture, quality control, supply, or installation of any components used in the subject vehicles that are similar in design to components on peer vehicles that were found defective and recalled and which may result in the alleged defect from the start of production to date. For each such modification or change, provide the following information:
 - a. the model and model year of the engine that the design applies to;
 - b. the date or approximate date on which the modification or change was incorporated into production;
 - c. a detailed description of the modification or change;
 - d. the reason(s) for the modification or change;
 - e. the part numbers (service and engineering) of the original component;
 - f. the part number (service and engineering) of the modified component;
 - g. whether the original unmodified component was withdrawn from production and/or sale, and if so, when;
 - h. when the modified component was made available as a service component; and
 - i. whether the modified component can be interchanged with earlier production components.

10. State whether International has ever conducted, or is aware of, any returned part analyses in subject or peer vehicles related to the alleged defect or recall 04V-400. If so, describe, and provide electronic copies of all documents and photographs relating to, any and all returned part analyses of subject components. Include in your description the total number of such parts returned, the number analyzed, a description of how they were analyzed, a listing of all such components that were inspected, tested, evaluated, or assessed by stating the vehicle's VIN, recall repair date, mileage at the recall repair date, date of build, anomalies detected, and reason for specific component analysis. Include any and all material showing the frequencies of failed components as a function of service life or mileage.
11. Provide copies of all documents transmitted internally within International that relate to the alleged defect or recall 04V400 in the subject or peer vehicles. Organize the document copies in chronological order.
12. Provide copies of all failure mode and effects analyses related to the alleged defect or recall 04V-400 in the subject or peer vehicles.
13. Furnish International's assessment of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles, including:
 - a. an assessment of the failure mechanism including all causal or contributory factors;
 - b. an assessment of the design factors of the subject component that may influence the durability of the subject component;
 - c. an assessment of the manufacturing factors that may influence the durability of the subject component;
 - d. an assessment of the vehicle assembly factors that may influence the durability of the subject component;
 - e. an assessment of the use factors of the subject component that may influence the durability of the subject component.
 - f. an assessment of the differences and similarities between the subject and peer vehicles with regard to the components that cause the issues identified in recall 04V-400.
 - g. please be as specific as possible in your answers and provide engineering explanations for how various factors affect the steering column durability.
 - h. any warning symptoms;
 - i. the root cause of the failures;
 - j. its potential effect on occupant safety; and
 - k. the potential for future occurrences of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles;

If International cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why it is unable to do so. If on the basis of attorney-client, attorney work product, or other privilege, International does not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request, International must provide a privilege log identifying each document or item withheld, and stating the date, subject or title, the name and position of the person(s) from, and the person(s) to whom it was sent, and the name and position of any other recipient (to include all carbon copies or blind carbon copies), the nature of that information or material, and the basis for the claim of privilege and why that privilege applies.

Internationals response to this letter, in duplicate, together with a copy of any confidentiality request, must be submitted to this office by **September 14, 2007**. Please refer to **RQ07-001** in Internationals response to this letter. If Internationals finds that it is unable to provide all of the information requested within the time allotted, Internationals must request an extension from Mr. Richard Boyd at (202) 366-4933 no later than five business days before the response due date. If International is unable to provide all of the information requested by the original deadline, it must submit a partial response by the original deadline with whatever information International then has available, even if an extension has been granted.

If International claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, International must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-113), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. International is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (only one copy of blueprints and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted).

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please call Bruce York of my staff at (202) 366-6938.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard P. Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard P. Boyd, Chief
Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicle Division
Office of Defects Investigation

Enclosure 1, one CD ROM titled Data Collection Disc containing one files