



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EQ 08-008
 Prompted By: 07V-306
 Date Opened: 5/27/2008 Date Closed: 08/25/2008
 Principal Investigator: Alex Ansley
 Subject: Freightliner Custom Chassis / Front Axle Steering Arm Bolts

Manufacturer : Axle Alliance Company (AAC)
 Products: Freightliner Custom Chassis containing AAC axle steering arm bolts
 Population: 38,000 est.

Problem Description: Certain front axle steering arm bolts may have been over-tightened causing them to fracture and break.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

*Description of Other:

Action Open EQ

Engineer: Alex Ansley

Date: 8/25/2008

Div. Chief: George Person

Date: 8/25/2008

Summary On 7/3/07 Freightliner LLC filed a 573 defect report stating certain Freightliner produced chassis contained AAC axle steering arm bolts contain a latch lever pivot bolt assembly that may have been over-tightened. Over-tightened steering arm bolts may fatigue and fracture. Should these bolts break apart, steering loss is possible leading to loss of vehicle control and a crash.

RMD mailed information request letters to 7 vehicle manufacturers on 6/24/2008. Gulf Stream Coach & Tiffin Motorhomes filed 573 Defect Information Reports, 08V-354 and 08V-393, respectively. 4 OEMs, Double K, Glaval Bus, Morgan Olson, & Utilimaster Corp., supplied make/model information. Supreme Corp.'s inventory was returned to another party as a modification deal fell through and no work was performed on the chassis. Owner information was forwarded to Freightliner so a notification can be mailed to that customer.

This EQ is closed.

IR responses can be found below or in the document repository.

Freightliner AAC Arm Bolts EQ08-008 Status

IR Letters mailed 5/24/08

OEM	Address	City	State	Zip	Status
Gulf Stream Coach, Inc.	503 S. Oakland Ave	Nappanee	IN	46550	08V-354
Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc.	105 2nd Street NW	Red Bay	AL	35582	08V-393
Double K, Inc.	701 N Railroad Ave	Crandon	WI	54520-1654	Responded 7/7- Gave models
Glaval Bus	914 County Rd 1 North	Elkhart	IN	46514	Rob emailed 6/20- All fixed/Not recalling- I asked for make/model
Startrans / Supreme Corp.	2592 Kercher Rd	Goshen	IN	46528	Kevin Walker called 7/8- 11 units total- 10 were supposed to have have armored truck bodies installed, but the deal fell through & 1 unit was retailed to Eldorado, who has already filed. 10 unit customer info sent to Freightliner for notification mailing
Morgan Olson Corp.	1801 S. Nottawa St	Sturgis	MI	49091	Emailed letter to Morgan Olson on 7/29- Greg H called on 8/5- Emailed over make/models
Utilimaster Corp.	65906 State Road 19	Wakarusa	IN	46573-0585	Glen called 6/30- Final-stage Mfr- Will be responding- Fax received 7/7- Gave models