



ODI RESUME

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

Investigation: EQ 08-008
Prompted By: 07V-306
Date Opened: 5/27/2008
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: 5/27/2008

Div. Chief: George Person

Date: 5/27/2008

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.

In Freightliner's most recent quarterly report, it was noted that 18 vehicle manufacturers were sold Freightliner chassis with this recalled equipment. Only 8 of these subsequent manufacturers have provided defect reports or make/model information to NHTSA. This investigation is being opened to ensure all receiving vehicle manufacturers are made aware of this safety defect and to ensure their affected model information is made publically available.