U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

MAY 18 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Mike Kirk
Salem Leasing Corp
175 Charlois Blvd
Winston Salem, NC 27103

NVS-214njs
EA11-011

Dear Mr. Kirk:

On September 9, 2011, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA" or "agency") opened Engineering Analysis EA11-011 to investigate complaints of failures of certain Haldex spring (emergency) brakes resulting in wheel drag and, in some cases, vehicle fires. In connection with this investigation, our office contacted Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA), certain of whose model year (MY) 2007 trucks and tractors – including those manufactured by its subsidiaries Sterling and Freightliner – are equipped with Haldex brake chambers. When requested by this office, DTNA identified your company as a customer and provided ODI with your contact information.

In order for ODI to obtain a complete and accurate record of the performance of these brakes, we request input from you, the end-user of the vehicles on which these brakes are installed. Please review the following letter, call me with any questions or concerns, and then respond within three (3) weeks.

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

- **Subject vehicles:** All MY 2007 tractors/trucks with the brand name Freightliner or Sterling, as well as other names, equipped with 24/30 Haldex brake chambers.

- **Subject component:** 24/30 Haldex spring brake chambers.

- **Alleged defect**: Failures of the subject component involving the spring brake system, or allegations of wheel end fire.

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 your response to each request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered.

1. State, by make, model and model year, the number of subject vehicles that your fleet has owned or operated.

   In addition, for each subject vehicle that your fleet has owned or operated, state the following:

   a. VIN;
   b. Vehicle Make;
   c. Vehicle Model;
   d. Vehicle Model Year;
   e. Date of manufacture;
   f. Date warranty coverage commenced;
   g. Current mileage;
   h. Total count of subject component replacements; and
   i. The part number(s) of the subject component installed on the vehicle as original equipment.

   Provide the table in Excel or a compatible format, entitled "FLEET DATA." A pre-formatted table that provides further details regarding this submission will be emailed to you.

2. State, by make, model, and model year, a total count for all of the following categories of claims, collectively, that have been paid by the vehicle manufacturer(s) of the subject vehicles to date that relate to, or may relate to, the subject component: 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 or customer satisfaction campaign.

   Separately, for each such claim, state the following information:

   a. VIN;
   b. Vehicle Make;
   c. Vehicle Model:
   d. Vehicle Model Year;
   e. Date of manufacture;
   f. Date warranty coverage commenced;
   g. Date of claim;
   h. Haldex brake chamber part number(s);
   i. Vehicle's hours/mileage at time of claim;
   j. Concern, if any stated by the driver;
   k. Comments, if any, from the technician preforming the repair, and
   l. List of parts replaced at the time of repair.

Provide this information in Excel or a compatible format, entitled "WARRANTY DATA." A pre-formatted table that provides further details regarding this submission will be emailed to you.

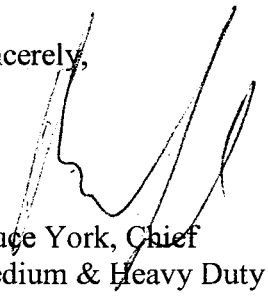
3. Provide a brief description of your company. Include
   a. General company overview;
   b. Type of trailer(s) pulled;
   c. Area of operation (local, regional, etc.); and
   d. Whether you outsource vehicle maintenance or do it in-house.

4. Furnish your company's assessment of the alleged defect in the subject component, including:
   a. The risk to motor vehicle safety it poses;
   b. The role maintenance plays;
   c. Your company's maintenance practices regarding the subject component;
   d. Your company's expectations of its drivers regarding the subject component; and
   e. Any additional information you wish to share.

Your response to this letter must be submitted to this office by **1 June 2012**. If you cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why you are unable to do so. If you do not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request on the basis of attorney-client, attorney work product, or other privilege, please identify or describe the omitted documents and explain the reason they are not being submitted.

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please contact Nate Seymour of my staff at (202) 366-2069 or (nate.seymour@dot.gov).

Sincerely,



Bruce York, Chief
Medium & Heavy Duty Vehicles Division
Office of Defects Investigation

IDENTICAL LETTERS TO:

Mr. John Fleure
Ryder Truck Rental Inc.
11690 NW 105th St
Miami, FL 33178

Mr. Duane Lippincott
United Parcel Service of America
55 Glenlake Parkway NE
Atlanta, GA 30328

Mr. Pat Riley
URS Midwest Inc-United Road SV
10701 Middlebelt Rd
Romulus, MI 48174

Mr. Steve Nicholson
Niagara Mohawk A National Grid
175 E Old Country Rd
Hicksville, NY 11801

Mr. Brian Suhre
Cassens Transport Co
145 N Kansas St.
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Mr. Kevin Sampo
Performance Transport Service
169 Delaware Ave
Buffalo, NY 14202-2403

Mr. Calvin Cain
Georgia Power Co
62 Lake Mirror Rd Bin 50015
Forest Park, GA 30297

First Energy
76 S Main St
Akron, OH 44308

Mr. John Martin
Miller Truck Leasing
1820 Rte 38 Box 619
Lumberton, NJ 08048