



## Land Rover North America

April 29, 2004

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20580

04V-207  
(4 pages)

RE: Land Rover Recall Campaign – Child Lock Disengagement – Freelander 5 Door Vehicles, 2003 Model Year.

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

This notice is sent to you by Land Rover North America, on behalf of Land Rover, UK in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573.

Land Rover has determined that certain 2003 model year Land Rover Freelander 5 door vehicles may experience disengagement of child lock. A total of 3,194 vehicles built for sale in the United States are affected. Land Rover will recall these vehicles to replace their rear door latch.

Attached is the detailed defect information report, pursuant to Section 573.6 (c).

Should there be any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gabriel D. Klm  
Coordinator, Product Compliance

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NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Land Rover North America  
555 MacArthur Boulevard  
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430  
Telephone 1-800-637-6887  
Fax 1-201-760-8514

**Recall Campaign – Child Lock Disengagement – Freelander 5 Door Vehicles, 2003 Model Year.**

**1. Manufacturer Corporate Name:**

Land Rover  
Solihull, United Kingdom

**Affiliated U.S. Importing Company and Agent:**

Land Rover North America, Inc.  
555 MacArthur Blvd  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

**2. Identification of Affected Vehicles:**

Based on analysis of the failure mode and build records the following vehicle population was identified.

Subject Vehicles: 2003 Model Year, Freelander, 5 Door,

Start VIN on SALNY22203A225227  
End VIN on SALNM22263A238169

produced from July 12, 2002 to September 27, 2002

Subject Component: Left Hand Rear Door Latch, part number ALR 9787

Supplier: BROSE SCHLIESSYSTEME GMBH  
Otto Hahn Str. 34  
42369 Wuppertal  
Germany

Contact: Dr. – Ing. Peter Stratil, Quality Manager  
Phone: 011 49 2024887548

**3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:**

3194 vehicles built for sale in the United States in this VIN range may be affected by this recall. Vehicles that had the latch replaced previously are excluded from this recall since the replacement parts are confirmed as good parts.

**4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:**

It is estimated that 100% of vehicles within the above VIN range may exhibit the condition.

**5. Description of the Defect:**

The child door lock on the left hand rear door can become disengaged.

After extended use or repeated cycling of the left hand rear door latch, with the child lock engaged, two interfacing components could jam, disengaging the child lock. The subsequent investigation identified the issue on Left hand rear side door latches only, manufactured between July 11, 2002 and September 9, 2002.

**6. Chronology of Principal Events:**

**Autumn 2002** The problem was first identified on a vehicle in manufacturing at Solihull. Compound and stock checks, were carried out.

**Stock at Bosch** (the Tier 1 supplier) and line-side at Land Rover were functionally checked by Bosch personnel. 133 of 1400 parts checked at Land Rover were returned to Bosch as suspect.

**Winter 2002 –2003** To further scope the issue, a Special Exercise Bulletin was issued to institute a check for various latch failure modes at ports of entry.

**Spring 2003** Results of feedback from the Special Exercise Bulletin showed a total of 1023 vehicles were checked, of which 62 exhibited a failure. All confirmed failures were from vehicles built between July and September 2002.

**Summer 2003.** A sample of suspect latches returned from the Oxnard port were examined to confirm the scope of the concern and the correct identification of faulty parts through inspection in accordance with the Special Exercise Bulletin. Of the 8 parts returned, 4 were found to function correctly. The earliest confirmed faulty part was manufactured in week 28 of 2002.

**Winter 2003 – 2004** Detailed investigation by the Tier 2 supplier, Brose established that a riveting process had gone out of control between week 28 and week 37 of 2002 causing the potential for failure.

No accidents or injuries are known to have occurred as a result of this concern.

**7. Case of Non-Compliance**

There is no non-compliance.

**8. Description of Corrective Repair Action**

Recall Action will be carried out to replace LH rear latch in accordance with workshop manual for vehicles within affected VIN range. The recall Action will commence when sufficient parts become available for repairs to be completed (TBD).

**9. Copies of Dealer Communications**

Copies of the dealer notification documents (service bulletin and technical information bulletin (TIB)) will be submitted to NHTSA when available.

**10. Copy of Owner Communication**

A draft copy of the customer notification letter will be submitted to NHTSA for your review and approval when it is available.

**11. Manufacturer's Campaign Number**

Land Rover's campaign number is **B163**.