



04V-343

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Timothy A. Blubaugh
Director
Government Technical Affairs

May 20, 2004

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Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Defect Information Report FL-421

Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 3,200 FCCC FS-65 school bus chassis manufactured September 20, 1998 to June 28, 2002 with a defect that may allow a battery ground strap to wear on a chassis brake line.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

Co: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
DOSH, Legal Unit
10th Floor
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Enclosure

Certified Mail Article Number:

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NHTSA



Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

May 20, 2004

(c)(1) **Manufacturer:** Freightliner LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

Brands: Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation

(c)(2) **Vehicles Identification:**
Model(s) affected: FCCC FS-85 chassis
Manufacture Dates: September 20, 1996 To June 28, 2002
Rules for determining population: FS-85 chassis with Caterpillar engine and hydraulic brakes.
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 3,200

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** unknown

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** A braided ground strap to the starter may rub and wear on a steel chassis brake line.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:**
On December 12, 2003, the Columbus, Ohio Public Schools reported the starter ground strap had worn through the front brake line on two school buses. This report was also sent to NHTSA. FCCC initiated an investigation of the complaint and inspection of additional vehicles.

(c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** not applicable

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately July 18, 2004.

Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c)(9) **Communications sent to dealers and owners:** Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c)(10) **Copy of proposed owner notification letter:** A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.

(c)(11) **Manufacturer's campaign number:** FL-421