



Land Rover North America



RECEIVED
10/21/04

September 24, 2004

2004 OCT -7 AM 11:38

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

04V-489
(3 pages)

RE: Land Rover Recall Campaign B175- Rear Subframe Fixings
- Freelander 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 1986 and 49 CFR Part 573.

Land Rover has determined that certain 2003 model year Land Rover Freelander vehicles may have been installed with an incorrect weld nut in the rear subframe. A total of 4 vehicles built for sale in the United States are affected. Land Rover will recall these vehicles to install correct hardware.

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. Kim
Coordinator, Product Compliance

Land Rover North America
555 MacArthur Boulevard
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430
Telephone 1-800-637-6837
Fax 1-201-760-8314

Recall Campaign – Rear Subframe Fixings – Freelander 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 build records the following vehicles are identified.

Subject Vehicles: 2003 Model Year, Freelander.

SALNM22283A287864
SALNM222X3A287882
SALNM22253A288917
SALNM22273A289034

produced from August 20, 2003 to August 28, 2003

3. Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

4 vehicles listed above may be affected by this recall.

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

Unknown

5. Description of the Defect:

An M12 weld nut was incorrectly installed by a body panel supplier instead of the correct M14 weld nut. A bolt that locates the rear subframe to the body did not fit into this nut and was not installed at the vehicle assembly plant. Lack of this bolt could eventually cause the subframe to crack or become deformed. A cracked or deformed subframe could potentially lead to instability of the vehicle.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

In August 2003 the supplier (Wagon) notified Land Rover that between weeks 33 to 35 2003 an undersized caged nut was fitted to the rear subframe that may have been fitted to selected vehicles within the date range. These vehicles were held within the plant so that in plant inspections and rectification could be completed.

During March 2004, two field reports outside US/Canada market were referred to problems with rear subframe fixings. These incidents were determined to be related to the known problem of incorrect weld nut size in the subframe. A review of the inspections records for this concern was conducted and revealed that a number of vehicles may not have been inspected or rectified after the original inspection.

Searches for additional reports of problems with incorrect weld nut did not locate any additional reports. Engineering reviews of the scope and affect of the concern indicated that if the defect were not corrected, over time, the subframe could crack or deform. A cracked or deformed subframe could potentially lead to instability of the vehicle.

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

A recall action will be carried out to inspect the vehicles to see if the subframe fixing is correctly fitted and clamped up. If it is identified that the incorrect weld nuts were used, the subframe will be replaced with a new one that has correct weld nuts.

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 B175.