



**Land Rover North America**

October 15, 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 20590

04V-510  
(3 pages)  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
OCT 28 11:34  
NHTSA

RE: Land Rover Recall Campaign B188 – Passenger Side Airbag – 2005  
model year Land Rover Freelander

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

This notice is sent to you by Land Rover North America, on behalf of the manufacturer Land Rover, a private company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales, 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 2005 model year Land Rover Freelander vehicles may have been installed with an incorrect passenger side airbag. A total of four vehicles built for sale in the United States are affected; however, none of them have been sold to customers. Land Rover notified dealers to stop delivering the affected vehicles and 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,

Dennis Johnston  
Manager, Product Compliance

Land Rover North America  
555 MacArthur Boulevard  
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430  
Telephone 1-800-637-6837  
Fax 1-201-760-8514

## **Recall Campaign – Passenger Side Airbag – 2005 model year Freelander**

**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: 2005 model year Freelander

Affected VIN: SALNY22265A452747  
SALNY22225A452356  
SALNY22275A452370  
SALNY22225A452454

produced from September 9, 2004 to September 13, 2004

Subject Components: Deflector panel in the passenger side air bag module

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

Four vehicles are affected.

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

All of these vehicles may be affected

**5. Description of the Noncompliance:**

On affected vehicles, the deflector panel contained in the passenger side air bag module may not have been manufactured to specification and may result in unsatisfactory performance of the deflector panel's structural integrity during air bag deployment. This could result in damage to the air bag that consequently could then allow the release of a fragment of the deflector panel into the passenger compartment.

**6. Chronology of Principal Events:**

In September, 2004, the air bag supplier identified unsatisfactory performance of the deflector panel during routine Conformity of Production testing. After verification of the test results and an analysis of the characteristics of the deflector panel, the condition was brought to Land Rover's attention by the air bag supplier in the beginning of October, 2004. A vehicle gate hold was immediately issued. An investigation was undertaken, including review of production records, and analysis of computer records, to determine vehicles potentially affected. As a result, the decision was made by Land Rover to voluntarily recall the vehicles.

As of the date of this letter, there are no known accidents or injuries attributable to this condition.

**7. Case of Non-Compliance**

Vehicles experiencing this failure may fail to comply with FMVSS 208.

**8. Description of Corrective Action**

Land Rover contacted individual dealers on October 6, 2004 to stop delivering the affected vehicles. A recall action will be carried out to replace the passenger air bag modules in the affected vehicles with air bag modules of known good quality.

**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**

Because none of the four vehicles have actually been delivered to customers, Land Rover will not be mailing customer letters.

**11. Manufacturer's Campaign Number**

Land Rover's campaign number is B186.