



Timothy A. Blubaugh
Director
Government Technical Affairs



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November 30, 2004

04V-590
(6 pages)

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-436

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 2,800 Freightliner, Sterling and Western Star vehicles manufactured May 7, 2004 to October 20, 2004 with a defect in the interaxle driveline yoke.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report and ArvinMeritor's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

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

Enclosure



A DaimlerChrysler Company

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

November 30, 2004

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

Brands: Freightliner, Sterling, Western Star

(c)(2) **Vehicles identification:**

Model(s) affected: Freightliner - Century, Columbia, FLD
Sterling - AT9500, LT9500
Western Star - 4900

Manufacture Dates: May 7, 2004 to October 20, 2004

Basis for determining population: Production periods for subject interaxle drivelines were supplied by ArvinMeritor. Freightliner will use production records to identify the affected vehicles.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

ArvinMeritor, Inc.
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, Michigan 48064-7186

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** approximately 2,800

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

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** see attached Defect Information Report from ArvinMeritor

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** see attached Defect Information Report from ArvinMeritor.

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

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Repairs will be performed by Freightliner, Sterling, and Western Star 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 January 15, 2005

Reimbursement Plan: All prior repairs have been completed under warranty.

(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-436



2135 W. Maple Rd
Troy, MI 48084

arvinmeritoinc.com

November 23, 2004

Administrator of Enforcement
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Fax: 202-366-7882

Re: Defect Information Report, in accordance with 49 CFR §573.6, concerning certain ArvinMeritor, Inc. ("ArvinMeritor") Series 17N and 18N Interaxle Drivelines manufactured between May 01, 2004 and October 14, 2004

ArvinMeritor File: Unassigned

NHTSA File: Unassigned

Dear Sir /Madam:

ArvinMeritor, Inc. submits this Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR §573.6. The information is presented to correspond to the sub-paragraphs of section §573.6(c).

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(1)

This report is submitted by:

ArvinMeritor, Inc.
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, Michigan 48084-7186

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(2)

The affected motor vehicle equipment are ArvinMeritor model 17N and 18N Interaxle Drivelines that were manufactured between May 01, 2004 and October 14, 2004 using male shaft yokes manufactured by Mahindra Sona Limited, Plot No. 89/1, MIDC, Satpur, Nashik, 422 007, India. These Drivelines were shipped to customers listed in Appendix A of this notice between May 1, 2004 and October 14, 2004.

The population of potentially affected Drivelines was determined by manufacturing records maintained by ArvinMeritor's facility located in Manning, South Carolina.

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(3)

ArvinMeritor shipped 3393 Series 17N and 18N Interaxle Drivelines during the period mentioned above.

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(4)

ArvinMeritor has not yet determined the number and percentage of such drivelines affected by this issue.



Information Requested under §§573.6(c)(5)

ArvinMeritor has determined that the bolt holes located on the earwork of the male shaft yokes were manufactured with an oversized minor thread diameter. This condition allows the bolts used in the holes to become detached which, in turn, could result in a driveline separation.

Information Requested under §§573.6(c)(6)

September 29, 2004 – Freightliner-Portland reported to ArvinMeritor that an Interaxle Driveline assembly, part number 17NNM070B196, separated during end-of-line dynamometer testing.

October 1, 2004 – ArvinMeritor initiated formal problem solving to determine the root cause of the failure.

October 1, 2004 – ArvinMeritor notified Mahindra Sona of incident reported by Freightliner-Portland.

October 1, 2004 – Freightliner-Portland reported a second driveline separation during end-of-line dynamometer testing.

October 5, 2004 – ArvinMeritor representative traveled to Freightliner-Sterling to inspect parts for oversized minor diameter in the bolt hole threads. ArvinMeritor quality representative confirmed that no suspect parts were at Freightliner-Mt. Holly or Freightliner-Cleveland at that time.

October 5, 2004 – Mahindra Sona advised ArvinMeritor of its containment actions for unassembled male shaft yokes. Containment actions included instituting a sort for undersized minor thread issue on bolt holes, as well as arranging for ArvinMeritor representative to visit with the suppliers quality and engineering personnel to assess the situation and help determine root cause and corrective actions.

October 6, 2004 – Examination of suspect product that was in stock at ArvinMeritor showed bolt hole minor diameter to be 0.002" to 0.003" oversized on male shaft yokes.

October 6, 2004 – Freightliner-Portland reported third driveline separation during end-of-line dynamometer testing.

October 8, 2004 – Initial sample from separated driveline returned from Freightliner-Portland to ArvinMeritor

October 9, 2004 – Based on examination of returned part, bolts appeared to have been torqued into position at all locations, however, minor thread diameter size could not be determined due to damage of the yoke.

November 8, 2004 – ArvinMeritor concludes that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists and suspect products must be recalled.

Information Requested under §573.6(c)(7)

This issue described herein does not relate to FMVSS noncompliance.



Information Requested under §573.6(c)(8)

ArvinMeritor is working with customers to identify and notify owners of vehicles with suspect male shaft yokes replaced. This program will be managed by ArvinMeritor in cooperation with the affected customers, and will be at no expense to customers. Replacement parts for this program are in process of being determined. ArvinMeritor is in process of developing the Defect Information Notice to its customers and will submit that information to NHTSA as soon as available. ArvinMeritor is continuing to work with its suppliers and customers to determine availability of replacement product and the timing of customer notification.

In addition, ArvinMeritor currently believes that none of the suspect axles have been remedied prior to this notification and, therefore, that no general pre-notification reimbursement remedy program is required.

We trust that the information provided in this document is fully responsive to the requirements of 49 CFR §573.5. All additions or modifications to any of the information given will be reported promptly to NHTSA, as an amendment to this filing. Any questions with respect to the information provided should be directed to the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

ArvinMeritor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Audimoolam', written over a horizontal line.

Niran Audimoolam
Project Manger
Product Safety and Compliance

Enclosures

Appendix A: Summary of ArvinMeritor quantities supplied to affected customers



APPENDIX A
LIST OF AFFECTED CUSTOMERS AND QUANTITIES

Freightliner Corporation Attention: Mr. Timothy Blubaugh P. O. Box 3849 Portland, OR 97208-3849	3155
Mack Trucks, Inc. Attention: Mr. William J. Smith Mail Code: 6S1 2100 Mack Blvd. Allentown, PA 18103-1782 cc: Mr. Tim L. Lafon (Volvo Trucks north America Inc.)	69
Motor Coach Industries (MCI) Attention: Mr. Paul Murphy 1475 Clarence Avenue; Door 10, NPD Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 1T5 Canada	31
Interstate Power Products & Services 525 12th Avenue NE West Fargo, ND 58078 Attention: Shaun Grindall Phone: 701-277-5338 cc: Mr. Scott Halbesma – New Flyer Industries	103
ArvinMeritor Aftermarket 7975 Dixie Highway Florence, KY 41042	35