

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF DEFECT
INFORMATION REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. 04V-120 by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Report Date: March 5, 2004

DATE FAXED: March 10, 2004

MANUFACTURER: Freightliner

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Tim Blubaugh

FAX: 503-745-6800

SUBJECT: 275 Western Star 2003-2004 4900EX, 4900FA, and 4900SA trucks and truck-tractors equipped with TRW drag link assemblies and manufactured from November 15, 2003 through January 12, 2004. The replacement clamp assemblies and drag link assemblies contain a potentially defective 5/8-11-grade B prevailing torque hex nut. If the final tightening of the 5/8-11-grade B prevailing torque hex nut is less than 65 lb.-ft, the clamp load would be unacceptably low and could compromise the integrity of the drag link to the point where the ball socket could separate from the drag link causing loss of steering control. Loss of steering control could result in a vehicle crash, possibly causing injuries or death. (Freightliner Recall No. FL-422)

This is an acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be written **ONLY** if we have additional comments or concerns.

Please provide us with a draft owner notification letter for our review before mailing to consumers as well as an estimated owner notification schedule.

This recall was the subject of an investigation (EQ04-005) conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation. TRW's recall number is 04E-003.

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter **in which notification to purchasers occurs**. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin during April 2004. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by April 30, 2004.

If you have any questions, please call:



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Recall Management Division