



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

FEB 14 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Timothy Blubaugh
Director, Government Technical Affairs
Freightliner, LLC
4747 N. Channel Avenue
Portland, OR 97217-7699

NVS-215kjs

Dear Mr. Blubaugh:

Freightliner, Inc. (Freightliner) is requested, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30165, 30166, and 30119, to renotify owners involved in safety recall 04V-271 who have not had their buses corrected or otherwise accounted for. This recall involves 305 Freightliner 1999-2002 MB-45 and MB-55 shuttle bus chassis equipped with Bosch Zero Offset Pin Slide (ZOPS) hydraulic brake calipers and manufactured from January 1999 through June 2002. The brake assemblies exhibit elevated temperatures that can lead to catastrophic deterioration of the wheel end components such as bearings, races, spindles, knuckles, seals, hubs, rotors, patch bolts, calipers, brake pads, and abs sensors. (Freightliner Recall No. FL-428) Owner notification began on November 19, 2004. Through the fourth quarter of 2005, Freightliner's fifth reporting quarter, Freightliner reports that of the 305 vehicles involved, 115 have been remedied, and 24 have been inspected and no remedy required resulting in a completion rate of 46 percent.

Freightliner should conduct the owner renotification in accordance with the guidelines listed below.

- Before conducting the owner renotification, Freightliner should obtain an updated owner list, for this recall campaign, based on current state motor vehicle registration records.

- Freightliner's proposed owner renotification letter for this recall must meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.10, "Follow-up Notification," and must be submitted to NHTSA for review before owner renotification begins. Part 577.10(e)(1) specifically requires that the renotification letter be identified as a ". . . follow-up to an earlier communication."
- In addition to the six quarterly status reports required under 49 CFR Part 573.6, "Quarterly Reports," Freightliner is requested to file three additional quarterly status reports.
- Furnish a proposed schedule for conducting the owner renotification that includes the following information:
 - a. the date on which the search of current state motor vehicle registration records will be initiated in order to update the original owner list;
 - b. the approximate date on which the revised owner list will be available to initiate owner renotification;
 - c. the approximate date on which the owner renotification will begin; and
 - d. the approximate date on which the owner renotification will be completed (if the owner renotification is to be staggered, give the beginning and ending owner renotification date for each segment).

Freightliner's renotification schedule and a draft of the proposed owner renotification letter must be submitted to this office by March 15, 2006.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Kelly Schuler of my staff at (202) 366-5227, by fax at (202) 366-7882, or by e-mail at kschuler@nhtsa.dot.gov.

Sincerely,



George Person, Chief
Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement