

Recall Campaign

December 2004
FL434A-D
NHTSA #04V-537

Copy of Letter to Owner

Subject: Unimog U500 Michelin 365/85 R20 Tire Replacement

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the Canadian Motor Vehicles Safety Act.

Freightliner LLC, as the agent of DaimlerChrysler AG, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Unimog U500 vehicles manufactured for sale in the United States and Canada between November 2002 and September 2004 and equipped with Michelin 365/85R20 tires (other tires are not affected).

The Michelin 365/85 R20 tire may not be compatible with the maximum load and speed ratings of the Unimog 500. A tire may fail, especially if the vehicle is overloaded or the maximum rated speed is exceeded, resulting in a possible vehicle crash without prior warning.

The current tires will be replaced with Michelin 395/85 R20 tires, the speedometer will be recalibrated, updated tire information labels will be installed, and the central tire inflation system (CTIS) will be reprogrammed (when equipped).

When replacement parts for your vehicle are at your nearest Freightliner dealer, you will be contacted by the dealer to arrange to have your vehicle(s) modified. Once replacement tires and parts are at the dealership, the modification will take eight to ten hours or more and will be performed at no charge to you.

As stated in the terms of your express limited warranty, Freightliner LLC will not pay for any damage caused by failure to properly maintain your vehicle. Freightliner LLC considers the work necessary under this campaign to be proper maintenance and will, therefore, not pay for any damage to your vehicle caused by your failure to have the repairs that are the subject of this campaign performed in a reasonable time.

IMPORTANT: When the recall has been completed, please ensure that a label has been affixed to your vehicle referencing **FL434A-D**.

If you do not own the vehicle that corresponds to the identification number(s) which appears on the Recall Notification, please return the notification to the Warranty Campaigns Department with any information you can furnish that will assist us in locating the present owner. If you have leased this vehicle, please make sure this notification is immediately forwarded to the lessee. If you have paid to have this recall condition corrected prior to this notice, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement. Please see the reverse side of this notice for details.

If you are not able to have the defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, please contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time Monday through Friday, e-mail address WarrantyCampaigns@freightliner.com, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, or phone (888) 327-4236. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may wish to notify Transport Canada, ASFAD, Place de Ville Tower C, 330 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5, or phone (800) 333-0510.

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause but feel certain you understand our interest in motor vehicle safety.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

Reimbursement to Customers for Repairs Performed Prior to Recall

If you have already **paid** to have this recall condition corrected you may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

Requests for reimbursement may include parts and labor. Reimbursement may be limited to the amount the repair would have cost if completed by an authorized Freightliner LLC dealer. The following documentation must be presented to your dealer for consideration for reimbursement.

Please provide original or clear copies of all receipts, invoices, and repair orders that show:

- The name and address of the person who paid for the repair.
- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the vehicle that was repaired.
- What problem occurred, what repair was done, when the repair was done.
- Who repaired the vehicle.
- The total cost of the repair expense that is being claimed.
- Proof of payment for the repair (such as the front and back of a cancelled check or a credit card receipt).

Reimbursement will be made by check from your Freightliner LLC dealer. If your claim is denied, you will receive a letter from Freightliner LLC with the reason(s) for the denial.

Please speak with your Freightliner LLC authorized dealer concerning this matter.