

Recall Campaign

March 2005
FL436A-U
NHTSA #04V-590

Copy of Letter to Owner

Subject: ArvinMeritor 17N Interaxle Driveline Male Shaft Yokes

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, on behalf of its Freightliner Trucks Division and wholly owned subsidiaries, Sterling Truck Corporation and Western Star Trucks Incorporated, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Freightliner Columbia, Coronado, Business Class, Business Class M2, Argosy, and Classic vehicles; Sterling A/L-Line and Acterra vehicles; and Western Star 4900 vehicles manufactured between May 7, 2004, and October 20, 2004.

The U-joint cap bolts in the male shaft yoke may not have adequate thread engagement. This may cause the splined driveline shaft to separate from the vehicle, resulting in a possible vehicle crash without prior warning. If the driveline separates, the debris can represent a potential hazard to people outside the vehicle and to other passing vehicles.

Vehicles will be inspected and those that have inadequate thread engagement will have new male shaft yoke subassemblies installed. It is expected that 25 percent or less will require replacement.

Repair kits are now available for authorized dealers to order. Contact your authorized dealer to arrange to have your vehicle(s) modified and to assure that parts are available at the dealer.

When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number **FL436A-U**. Once kit(s) are received at the dealership, the modification will take approximately an hour and will be performed at no charge to you.

IMPORTANT: When the recall has been completed, please ensure that a label has been affixed to your vehicle referencing **FL436A-U**.

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.

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