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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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May 9, 2005

Ron Medford
Sr. Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

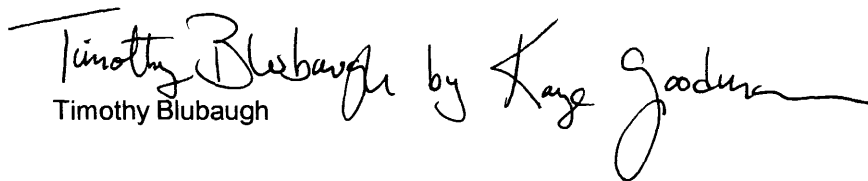
**Re: Defect Information Report (FL-436), NHTSA no. 04V-590
Meritor 17N Series Interaxle Driveline**

Mr. Medford:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information and copies of documents distributed to dealers and purchasers.

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

Certified Mail Article Number:

7003 2260 0001 3402 7027

Section 573.6 Defect Information Report
FL-436, NHTSA no. 04V-590
Supplement No.: 1

May 3, 2005

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

(c) (3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: (Revise to read) 1,095

(c) (9) Communications sent to dealers: posted March 31, 2005
Communications sent to owners: mailed April 4, 2005

Recall Campaign

March 2005
FL436A-U
NHTSA #04V-590

Subject: ArvinMeritor 17N Interaxle Driveline Male Shaft Yokes

Models Affected: 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.

General Information

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 the vehicles mentioned above.

There are approximately 3,000 vehicles involved in this campaign.

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.

NOTE: Vehicles in FL436S, T, and U have two involved interaxle drivelines (approximately two dozen vehicles). Both drivelines must be inspected and the male shaft yoke subassemblies on each replaced if needed.

Additional Repairs

Dealers must complete all outstanding recall campaigns prior to the sale or delivery of a vehicle. A Dealer will be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns before sale or delivery of a vehicle.

Owners may be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns within a reasonable time after receiving notification.

Work Instructions

Please refer to the attached work instructions. Prior to performing the campaign, check the vehicle for a completion sticker (Form WAR260).

Replacement Parts

Replacement kits are now available and can be obtained by ordering the kit number(s) listed below from your facing Parts Distribution Center.

If our records show your dealership has ordered any vehicles involved in campaign number FL436A-U, a list of the customers and vehicle identification numbers will be available on AccessFreightliner.com. Please refer to this list when ordering parts for this recall.

Recall Campaign

March 2005
FL436A-U
NHTSA #04V-590

Table 1 - Inspection Kit for FL436A-U

This kit is required for all vehicles, and you may order it for stock. Please refer to your VIN list on AccessFreightliner.com to determine how many inspection kits you might need. Expedited shipping for this kit may not be claimed.

NOTE: Vehicles in FL436S, T, and U (approximately two dozen vehicles) have two involved interaxle drivelines. Both must be inspected and the male shaft yoke subassemblies replaced as needed. Use two inspection kits for these vehicles.

25-FL436-000

Campaign Number	Kit Number	Part Description	Part Number	Qty. per Kit	Suggested Wholesale*
FL436A-U	25-FL436-000	Meritor Driveline Inspection Kit - FRK0510000	Gage Pin	1 ea	\$5.96 U.S. \$15.75 CAN
			U-joint Bolts	4 ea	
		Completion Sticker	WAR260	1 ea	

* Please charge all Direct Warranty Customers the above-listed price for the kit, as they are authorized to perform their own Recalls.

Table 1

Table 2 - Replacement Kits for FL436A-U

Order the appropriate kits from the table below by serial number when the inspection indicates a replacement is necessary. Expedited shipping for the kits on this table, when necessary, may be included on your recall claim.

Each replacement kit contains the appropriate male shaft yoke sub-assembly (male shaft yoke, U-joint, and seal) and attaching hardware.

NOTE: Vehicles in FL436S, T, and U have two involved interaxle drivelines (approximately two dozen vehicles). Both drivelines must be inspected and one or both male shaft yoke subassemblies replaced if needed. If both male shaft yoke assemblies require replacement, you will need to use two replacement kits.

25-FL436-001 to 25-FL436-0018

Campaign Number	Kit Number	Part Description	Part Number	Qty. per Kit	Suggested Wholesale*
FL436A	25-FL436-001	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510004	1 kit	\$185.11 U.S. \$301.71 CAN
FL436BT	25-FL436-002	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510011	1 kit	\$181.17 U.S. \$295.30 CAN
FL436CU	25-FL436-003	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510008	1 kit	\$183.95 U.S. \$299.85 CAN
FL436DS	25-FL436-004	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510002	1 kit	\$286.60 U.S. \$467.14 CAN
FL436E	25-FL436-005	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510007	1 kit	\$191.29 U.S. \$311.78 CAN
FL436FT	25-FL436-006	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510005	1 kit	\$190.45 U.S. \$310.43 CAN
FL436G	25-FL436-007	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510012	1 kit	\$194.03 U.S. \$316.27 CAN
FL436H	25-FL436-008	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510017	1 kit	\$184.77 U.S. \$301.17 CAN

Table 2 (continues on next page)

Recall Campaign

March 2005
FL436A-U
NHTSA #04V-590

Campaign Number	Kit Number	Part Description	Part Number	Qty. per Kit	Suggested Wholesale*
FL436I	25-FL436-009	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510014	1 kit	\$194.87 U.S. \$317.65 CAN
FL436J	25-FL436-010	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510015	1 kit	\$187.55 U.S. \$305.70 CAN
FL436K	25-FL436-011	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510010	1 kit	\$198.46 U.S. \$323.47 CAN
FL436L	25-FL436-012	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510006	1 kit	\$224.52 U.S. \$365.96 CAN
FL436MS	25-FL436-013	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510009	1 kit	\$239.82 U.S. \$390.93 CAN
FL436N	25-FL436-014	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510003	1 kit	\$214.63 U.S. \$349.87 CAN
FL436O	25-FL436-015	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510013	1 kit	\$228.10 U.S. \$371.83 CAN
FL436P	25-FL436-016	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510016	1 kit	\$202.06 U.S. \$329.33 CAN
FL436QU Note: This kit is for an 18N driveline.	25-FL436-017	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510018	1 kit	\$245.86 U.S. \$400.73 CAN
FL436R	25-FL436-018	Meritor Replacement Kit	FRK0510001	1 kit	\$266.41 U.S. \$434.28 CAN

* Please charge all Direct Warranty Customers the above-listed price for the kit, as they are authorized to perform their own Recalls.

Table 2 (continued from previous page)

Removed Parts

Please follow Warranty Failed Parts Tracking shipping instructions for the disposition of all removed parts.

Labor Allowance

Table 3 - Labor Allowance

Campaign Number	Procedure	Time Allowed (hours)	SRT Code	Damage Code
FL436A-U	Inspect male shaft yoke	0.2	996-0611A	000-Inspected
FL436A-U	Inspect and replace male shaft yoke	0.7	996-0611B	000-Modifiedx

Table 3

IMPORTANT: When the recall has been completed, locate the base completion label in the appropriate location on the vehicle, and attach the red completion sticker provided in the recall kit (Form WAR260). If the vehicle does not have a base completion label, clean a spot on the appropriate location of the vehicle and first attach the base completion label (Form WAR259). If a recall kit is not required or there is no completion sticker in the kit, write the recall number on a blank sticker and attach it to the base completion label.

Recall Campaign

March 2005
FL436A-U
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Claims for Credit

You will be reimbursed for your parts, labor, and handling by submitting your claim through the Warranty system within 30 days of completing this campaign. Please reference the following information in QuickClaim®:

- Claim type is **Recall**.
- In the FTL Authorization field, enter the campaign number and appropriate condition code (e.g. **FL436A, FL436B, etc.**).
- In the Primary Failed Part Number field, enter **25-FL436-000**.
- In the Parts field, enter the appropriate kit number(s) as shown in the Replacement Parts Tables.
 - The inspection kit (25-FL436-000) may be ordered for stock, and expedited shipping may not be claimed.
 - The replacements kits (25-FL436-001 through 25-FL436-018) must be ordered by serial number, and expedited shipping, when necessary, may be included on your recall claim.
 - **NOTE:** Vehicles in FL436S, T, and U have two involved interaxle drivelines (approximately two dozen vehicles). Both drivelines must be inspected and one or both male shaft yoke subassemblies replaced if needed. You will need two inspection kits and, if both are assemblies are placed replaced, you will claim two replacement kits for vehicles in these condition codes.
- In the Labor field, first enter the appropriate SRT from the Labor Allowance Table. For administrative time, enter SRT 939-0010A for 0.3 hours. **NOTE:** Two SRTs must be claimed for vehicles in FL436S, T, and U (Inspect both male shaft yokes, inspect one and inspect/replace one male shaft yoke, or inspect/replace both male shaft yokes).

NOTE: ServicePro®/Service Advisor® must be viewed prior to performing the recall to ensure the vehicle is involved and the campaign has not been previously completed. Also, check for a completion sticker prior to beginning work.

Contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, Web inquiry at AccessFreightliner.com / Support / Submit an Inquiry, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) 385-4357, after normal business hours, if you have any questions or need additional information.

To return excess kit inventory related to this campaign, U.S. dealers must submit a Parts Authorization Return (PAR) to the Memphis PDC. Canadian dealers must submit a PAR to their facing PDC. All kits must be in resalable condition. PAR requests must include the original purchase invoice number.

The letter notifying vehicle owners is included for your reference.

Please note that the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended (49 USC), requires the owner's vehicle(s) be corrected within a reasonable time after parts are available to you. The Act states that failure to repair a vehicle within 60 days after tender for repair shall be prima facie evidence of an unreasonable time. However, circumstances of a particular situation may reduce the 60 day period. Failure to repair a vehicle within a reasonable time can result in either the obligation to (a) replace the vehicle with an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle, without charge, or (b) refund the purchase price in full, less a reasonable allowance for depreciation. The Act further prohibits dealers from selling a vehicle unless all outstanding recalls are performed. Also, any lessor is required to send a copy of the recall notification to the lessee.

Finally, the Act states that a remedy need not be provided without charge if the vehicle was bought by the first purchaser more than ten (10) calendar years before notice is given.

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

Recall Campaign

March 2005
FL436A-U
NHTSA #04V-590

Work Instructions

Subject: ArvinMeritor 17N Interaxle Driveline Male Shaft Yokes

Models Affected: 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.

IMPORTANT: Vehicles in FL436S, T, and U have two involved interaxle drivelines (approximately two dozen vehicles). Both drivelines must be inspected and one or both male shaft yoke subassemblies replaced if needed. You will need two inspection kits and, if both are assemblies are replaced, you will need two replacement kits for vehicles in these condition codes.

Yoke Inspection

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface. Shut down the engine, set the parking brake, and chock the tires.
2. Check the base label (Form WAR259) on the vehicle for a completion sticker for FL436 (Form WAR260) indicating this work has been done. The base label is usually located on the passenger-side door about 12 inches (30 cm) below the door latch.

If a completion sticker is found, no further work is needed. Remove the chocks from the tires.

If a completion sticker is not found, go to the next step.

3. Remove and discard the four capscrews from the two cover plates of the male shaft yoke (two capscrews in each cover plate), attached to the rearmost axle end-yoke. See **Fig. 1**.
4. Try to insert the supplied pin gauge (p/n PNR6-32-18 from kit 25-FL436-000) into each of the four threaded holes on the cover plate of the male shaft yoke. See **Fig. 2**.

If the pin gauge *does* fit into any of the holes, the male shaft yoke must be replaced. Go to the "Yoke Replacement."

If the pin gauge does *not* fit into any of the holes, the male shaft yoke does not need to be replaced. Go to the next step.

5. Install four new cover-plate capscrews from the kit. Tighten them 38 to 48 lbf·ft (52 to 65 N·m).
6. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259). The base label is usually located on the passenger-side door about 12 inches (30 cm) below the door latch. Attach a completion sticker for campaign FL436 (Form WAR260) to the base label.
7. Remove the chocks from the tires.

Yoke Replacement

NOTE: The male shaft yoke is to be removed together with the U-joint cross and bearings. The kit will include a new male shaft yoke with a new, installed U-joint cross and bearings.

1. Remove the male shaft yoke.
 - 1.1 Using a suitable U-joint puller, disconnect the U-joint bearings from the rearmost axle end-yoke.
 - 1.2 Using a blade screwdriver, remove the dust seal from the slip yoke (on the interaxle driveline). See **Fig. 3**.
 - 1.3 Remove the male shaft yoke from the slip yoke. See **Fig. 4**.

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March 2005
FL436A-U
NHTSA #04V-590

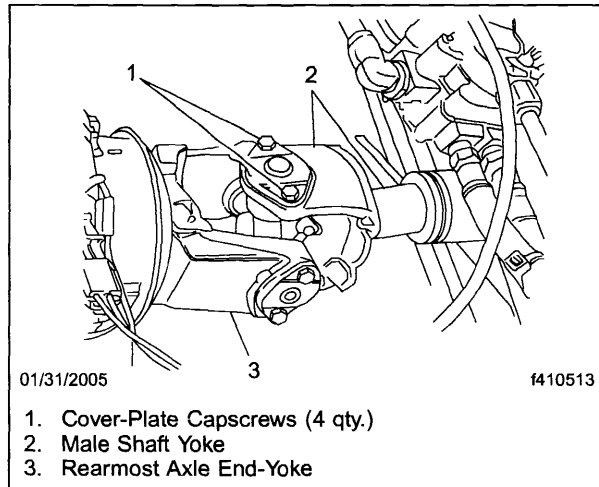


Fig. 1, Cover-Plate Capscrews Location (one side of yoke shown)

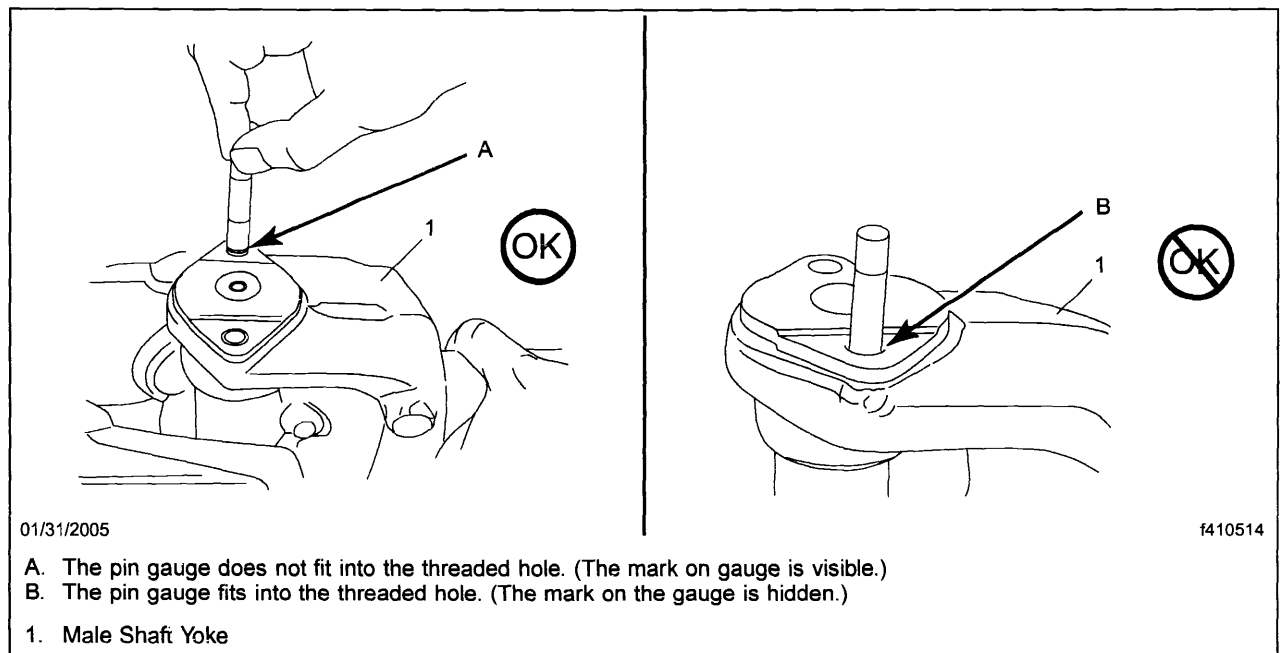


Fig. 2, Checking the Capscrew Holes

2. Install the new male shaft yoke from the appropriate kit listed in Table 2 - Replacement Parts.
 - 2.1 Make sure the ears of the new shaft yoke and those of the slip yoke are phased correctly. The centerline of the male shaft yoke ear tips and the centerline of the slip yoke ear tips must be aligned with each other. See Fig. 5.
 - 2.2 Insert the new male shaft yoke (with the new dust seal and U-joint) into the splines of the slip yoke. Check again that the two yokes are phased correctly.

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- 2.3 Snap the dust seal over the end of the slip yoke. See **Fig. 6**.
- 2.4 Install the U-joint bearings in the rearmost axle end-yoke.
- 2.5 Install the new cover-plate capscrews on the rearmost end-yoke and tighten them as follows:
 - 38 to 48 lbf·ft (52 to 65 N·m) for a full-round yoke
 - 115 to 135 lbf·ft (156 to 183 N·m) for an Easy Service™ (half-round) yoke

IMPORTANT: If a low-pressure adapter is not used to lubricate the U-joint, it may not receive enough grease. Fresh grease must be seen escaping from all four bearing-cup seals of the U-joint.

3. Using a hand-type grease gun or a high-pressure gun with a low-pressure adapter, lubricate the U-joint. Use lithium 12-hydroxy stearate grease with molybdenum sulfide (NLGI Grade 2), and lubricate until new grease can be seen at all four bearing-cup seals.

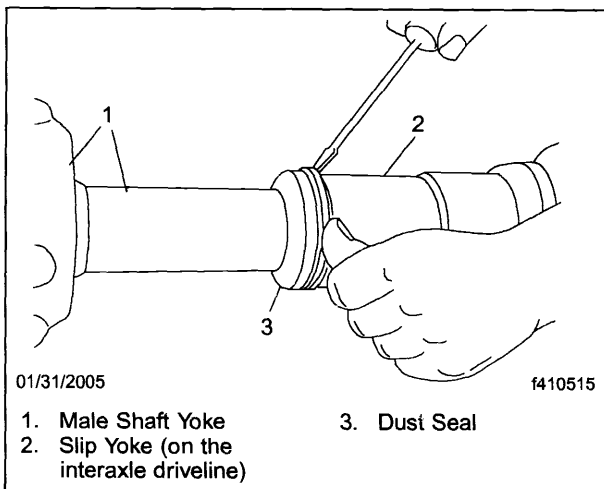


Fig. 3, Removing the Dust Seal

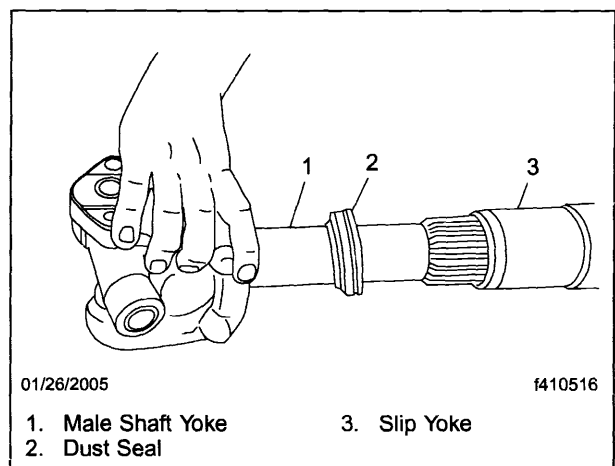


Fig. 4, Removing the Male Shaft Yoke

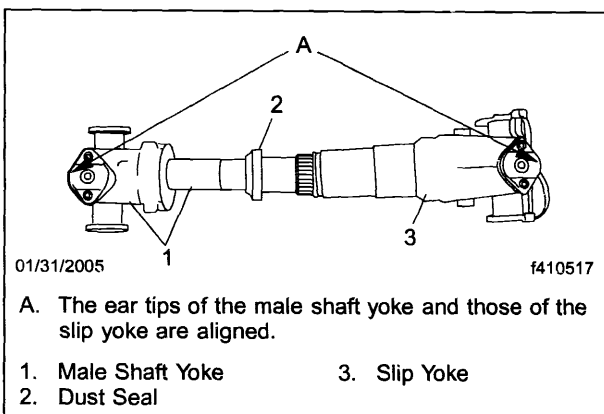


Fig. 5, Correct Phasing of the Yokes

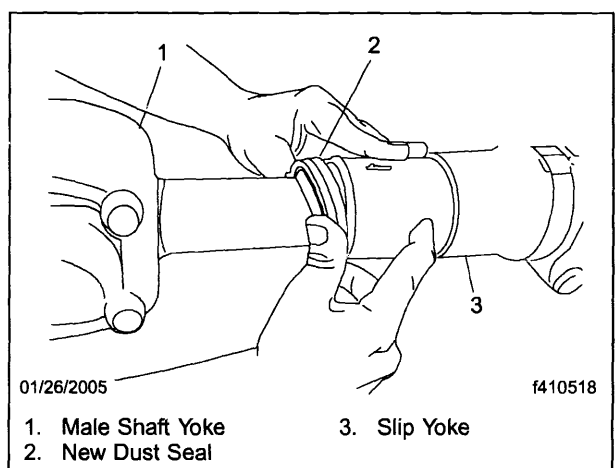


Fig. 6, Installing the New Dust Shield

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FL436A-U
NHTSA #04V-590

Wipe off any excess grease from the U-joint seals.

4. Lubricate the slip yoke as follows:
 - 4.1 Wipe all old grease and dirt from the slip yoke grease fitting.
 - 4.2 Pump grease into the fitting until it appears at the pressure-relief hole in the yoke plug. Cover the relief hole with your finger, while continuing to apply gun pressure until new grease appears at the dust seal. This ensures complete lubrication of the splines.
 - 4.3 Wipe the purged grease from the pressure-relief hole and dust seal, and any excess grease from the grease fitting.
5. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259). The base label is usually located on the passenger-side door about 12 inches (30 cm) below the door latch. Attach a completion sticker for campaign FL436 (Form WAR260) to the base label.
6. Remove the chocks from the tires.