



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

April 29, 2005

TIMOTHY BLUBAUGH
FREIGHTLINER LLC
4747 N. CHANNEL AVENUE
PORTLAND OR 97217

NVS-215
05V-185

Subject: ALUMINUM WHEELS/ACCURIDE

Dear MR. BLUBAUGH:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records, as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

FREIGHTLINER/AMERICAN LAFRANCE/2005
FREIGHTLINER/CENTURY ST/2005
FREIGHTLINER/COLUMBIA/2005
FREIGHTLINER/STERLING ACTERRA/2005
FREIGHTLINER/WESTERN STAR/2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-185

Recall Date: April 20, 2005

Components:

WHEELS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 3,500

Summary:

ON CERTAIN HEAVY DUTY CLASS 8 TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH ACCURIDE ALUMINUM WHEELS, THE WHEELS WERE NOT PROPERLY PRE-STRESSED. THIS ALLOWS CRACKS TO DEVELOP OVER TIME.

Consequence:

THIS MAY EVENTUALLY LEAD TO WHEEL FAILURE AND POSSIBLY RESULT IN A VEHICLE CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE WHEELS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON JUNE 17, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712.

Notes:

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-448. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, 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, the recall is expected to begin on June 17, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by July 30, 2005.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



for George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division