



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

JUN 20 2005

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

NVS-215  
05V-284

Subject: FRACTURE SUSPENSION BEAM/HOLLAND/NEWAY

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/2004\*  
FREIGHTLINER/FREIGHTLINER/2004\*  
FREIGHTLINER/STERLING/2004\*  
FREIGHTLINER/THOMAS BUILT BUS/2004\*  
FREIGHTLINER/WESTERN STAR/2004\*

\*models/model years will be provided later per Freightliner's report

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-284

**Recall Date:** June 03, 2005

**Components:**  
SUSPENSION

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 634

**Summary:**

CERTAIN TRUCKS OR BUSES EQUIPPED WITH HOLLAND/NEWAY AIR SUSPENSION SYSTEMS, A TRANSVERSE BEAM CASTING MAY FRACTURE UNDER NORMAL LOADS. IF A CASTING BREAKS WHEN THE VEHICLE IS TRAVELING ON A ROADWAY THERE IS THE POTENTIAL FOR PIECES OF THE CASTING TO BECOME PROJECTILES AND THE SUSPENSION'S TRANSVERSE BEAM MAY DROP DOWN LOW ENOUGH TO CONTACT THE ROAD SURFACE.

**Consequence:**

THIS WILL CAUSE SPARKS THAT COULD POTENTIALLY IGNITE AND CAUSE A FIRE.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND REPLACE THE DEFECTIVE TRANSVERSE BEAM ASSEMBLIES. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON JULY 29, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712.

**Notes:**

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-453. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

Please provide us with a date of when the manufacturer became aware of the recall.

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 July 29, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by October 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](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



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