



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

*September 20, 2005*

TIMOTHY BLUBAUGH  
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL AFFAIRS  
FREIGHTLINER LLC  
4747 N. CHANNEL AVENUE  
PORTLAND OR 97217

NVS-215  
05V-408

Subject: STEERING LINKAGES/ZF

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/CENTURY/2004  
FREIGHTLINER/COLUMBIA/2004  
FREIGHTLINER/CORONADO/2004  
FREIGHTLINER/FLD/2004  
FREIGHTLINER/XC MOTORHOME CHASSIS/2004

**Mfg's Report Date:** September 2, 2005

**Components:**

STEERING:LINKAGES

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 33,000

**Summary:**

ON CERTAIN TRUCK AND MOTOR HOME CHASSIS EQUIPPED WITH I-SHAFTS SUPPLIED BY ZF HEAVY DUTY STEERING, THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR A FAILURE OF THE FORK/SHAFT CONNECTION.

**Consequence:**

IF THIS OCCURS, THE VEHICLE COULD SUFFER A LOSS OF STEERING ABILITY, WHICH COULD RESULT IN A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND REPAIR THE I-SHAFT. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING SEPTEMBER 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712.

**Notes:**

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-452. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

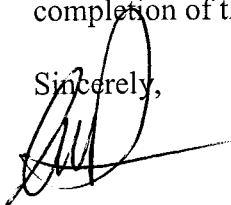
The information in your defect or noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirement of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

- Effective October 21, 2004, a manufacturer must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date (month/day/year) when submitting a defect/noncompliance report (Part 573.6).
- 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, owner notification is expected to begin on September 29, 2005. Since that is at the end of the quarter, the first quarterly report will be due by January 30, 2006.

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