



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

OCT 14 2005

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

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

NVS-215kjs
05V-467

Subject: ARVINMERITOR REAR AXLE HOUSING

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 information will be made accessible to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

FREIGHTLINER/ARGOSY/2005
FREIGHTLINER/BUSINESS CLASS M2/2005
FREIGHTLINER/CENTURY ST/2005
FREIGHTLINER/COLUMBIA/2005
THOMAS/C2/2005
THOMAS/FS-65/2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-467

Mfg's Report Date: September 23, 2005

Components:

SUSPENSION:REAR:AXLE:SPINDLE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,100

Summary:

CERTAIN 2005 THOMAS BUILT FS-65 AND C-2 SCHOOL BUSES AND 2005 FREIGHTLINER ARGOSY, COLUMBIA, CENTURY ST, AND M2 BUSINESS CLASS TRUCKS MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JUNE 4 AND JULY 8, 2005. THE SPINDLES IN THE REAR AXLE HOUSING WERE OVERHEATED DURING THE HEAT TREATMENT PROCESS. INCORRECTLY HEAT TREATED SPINDLES COULD RESULT IN A FRACTURE OF THE SPINDLE.

Consequence:

FREIGHTLINER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED THE AGENCY WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSEQUENCE.

Remedy:

FREIGHTLINER WILL NOTIFY ITS CUSTOMERS AND INSPECT FOR THE HEAT TREAT DATE CODE ON THE END OF THE REAR SPINDLES AND REPLACE THE AXLE HOUSING IF NECESSARY. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 25, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712.

Notes:

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-460. CUSTOMERS CAN 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 requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following item:

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 November 25, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by January 30, 2006.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227 or by email at KSCHULER@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