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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Timothy A. Blubaugh
Director
Government Technical Affairs

Freightliner LLC
4747 N. Channel Avenue
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TimothyBlubaugh@Freightliner.com

April 20, 2005

Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

05V-185
(12 Pages)

Re: Defect Information Report FL-448, Accuride 29644ANP Wheels

Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 3,500 Freightliner, Sterling, Western Star and American LaFrance vehicles manufactured February 20, 2005 to March 20, 2005 with a with a defect in certain Accuride 29644ANP wheels.

Attached are Freightliner's Defect Information Report and Accuride Wheels' Part 573 Defect Report

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:

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A DaimlerChrysler Company

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

April 20, 2005

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

Brands: Freightliner, Sterling, Western Star, American LaFrance

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Freightliner Columbia, Century ST
Sterling Acterra
Western Star 4900
American LaFrance

Manufacture Dates: February 20, 2005 to March 20, 2005

Basis for determining population: Shipments dates with suspect Accuride 29644ANP wheels were supplied by Accuride. Freightliner inventory records will be used to define production dates for vehicles that may have been manufactured with these wheels...

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Accuride Wheels
2315 Adams Lane
Henderson, KY 42420
(270) 826-5000
William D. Noll, Director/Quality and Program Management

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: approximately 3,500

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: unknown. Suspect wheels were included in Accuride shipments of 2,910 wheels to Freightliner. Only a small number of these wheels were manufactured with the defect.

(c)(5) Description of the defect: See Attached Defect Information Report from Accuride Wheels

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: Freightliner was notified of the defect by Accuride on March 24, 2005. See Attached Defect Information Report from Accuride Wheels

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: not applicable

(c)(8) Remedial program: Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately June 17, 2005.

Reimbursement Plan: All prior repairs were completed under warranty.

(c) (9) Communications sent to dealers and owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.

(c) (11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-448

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ACCURIDE[®]
CORPORATION

2315 Adams Lane
Henderson, KY 42420

P.O. Box 40
Henderson, KY 42419-0040

Telephone: (270) 826-5000
Fax Number: (270) 827-7697

March 11, 2005

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: **Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: Accuride 22.5 x 8.25, 15° Tubeless,
Aluminum Wheel – Part Number 29644ANP**

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On behalf of Accuride Corporation ("Accuride"), the following information is submitted pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §573.6, relating to a determination that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety may exist in certain heavy truck aluminum wheels manufactured from January 15, 2005 to January 17, 2005.

Sincerely,



William D. Noll
Director, Quality and Program Management
Phone: 270-827-7680; Fax: 270-827-7697
E-mail: bnoll@accuridccorp.com

cc: Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division, NHTSA, Attn: Ms. Kelly Schuler
(via fax – 202-366-7882)
David Armstrong, Senior Vice President and General Counsel – Accuride Corporation

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On March 7, 2005 Accuride Corporation decided that a defect that may relate to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: March 11, 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Accuride Corporation

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

William D. Noll, Director Quality and Program Management

Telephone Number: 270-827-7680 Fax No.: 270-827-7697

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

William D. Noll, Director, Quality and Program Management

Signed:

William D. Noll March 11, 2005

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Generic Name of the Item: 22.5 x 8.25 15-degree tubeless aluminum wheel.

Make: Accuride Aluminum Wheel **Part Number:** 29644ANP **Size:** 22.5 x 8.25

Production Dates: Beginning: 1/15/2005 **Ending:** 1/17/2005

Function: Vehicle Wheel

Other descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:
Accuride Corporation produced these wheels at its plant in Erie, Pennsylvania. These wheels are marketed by Accuride as Accuride Aluminum Wheels.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents.

640 wheels of this specific model were produced during this time frame.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Items Potentially Involved
E011505, E011605, E11705	2005	640

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 422

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 29%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:

The condition was noted on January 17, 2005 1st shift. The records were reviewed to determine when the last adjustment was made to the pre-stressing machine. The last adjustment was made on January 15, 2005 2nd shift. Therefore all wheels produced on line 6 during this time frame are suspect. This is a total of 183 wheels. These wheels were sent to an outsource supplier for rework on 4 different dates (February 11 through February 25, 2005). After the rework was complete it was discovered that all the suspect wheels had not been received by the rework source. This meant that some of the suspect wheels were shipped to customers between February 11 and February 24, 2005. Shipments made during this time that included wheel P/N 29644ANP are suspect.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

Wheels were did not have the pre-stress operation on the convex disc face and the convex disc slope of the wheels in question. See attached drawing.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The defect on the wheel was caused by a process error on machining Line 6 at the Erie, Pennsylvania facility. The pre-stress operation was not complete on the disc face of the wheels due to a machine set-up problem. The cause of wheels getting into service was reworked wheels were shipped in error to the customers because they were inadequately identified on the shipping dock.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Wheels that have not been properly pre-stressed may experience premature cracking on the disc face that could result in failure in service.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Small initial cracks can be visually seen originating at the edge of the washer of the two-piece flange nut that secures the wheel to the axle, if the wheel is used in a front steer axle position. If the wheel is used as part of a dual assembly, the outer dual must be removed to see these early cracks since they would be present only on the convex disc face. Eventually, cracks could progress through the disc thickness and they could be seen on either side of the disc of the wheel.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

N/A

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

N/A

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

On January 17, 2005, a 1st shift supervisor responsible for machining line 6 in Erie, PA, made a visual inspection of a finished wheel and noted what appeared to be an incomplete pre-stress process. The line was immediately shutdown and a physical inspection of the pre-stress machine was completed. The subject inspection revealed the machine was malfunctioning and not completing a full pre-stress cycle across the wheel. Production records were then reviewed to determine the last time any adjustments were made to the pre-stress machine. Those records indicated an event on January 15th on 2nd shift. Thus, all wheels produced from January 15th 1st shift until the error was discovered were identified and quarantined. During the time from January 17th, until February 24, 2005 four lots of the quarantined wheels were shipped to a third party processor for rework. On February 25th, reconciliation of shipped quantities revealed that a portion of the quarantined wheels had been shipped in error to other locations. A physical inventory confirmed the absence of a portion of the quarantined wheels. On March 7, 2005 management was notified and a decision was made to campaign these wheels. No wheels have been found or reported with cracks or failures.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

N/A

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

Accuride will notify the customers that have been shipped wheels in the suspect lots and replace all the suspect wheels with the manufacturing dates 011505, 011605 and 011705. The replacement wheels will be standard production wheels.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The suspect non-pre-stressed wheels circular machining marks on the disc surface similar to a phonograph record. The standard production wheels have a smooth surface.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The condition was corrected in production when the condition was noted on January 17, 2005 by resetting the machine controls. All set-up parameters in the pre-stress machine were confirmed and operators were re-trained on the set-up process. In addition, all operators were re-trained on visual inspection of the wheel disc face prior to packaging.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Accuride is in the process of identifying all customers who may have received suspect wheels. These customers will be notified and directed to identify the wheels by production date. All wheels with the suspect lot dates will be returned and replaced at no charge. Attached is a draft of the proposed owner notification letter pursuant to C.F.R. §573.6 (10).

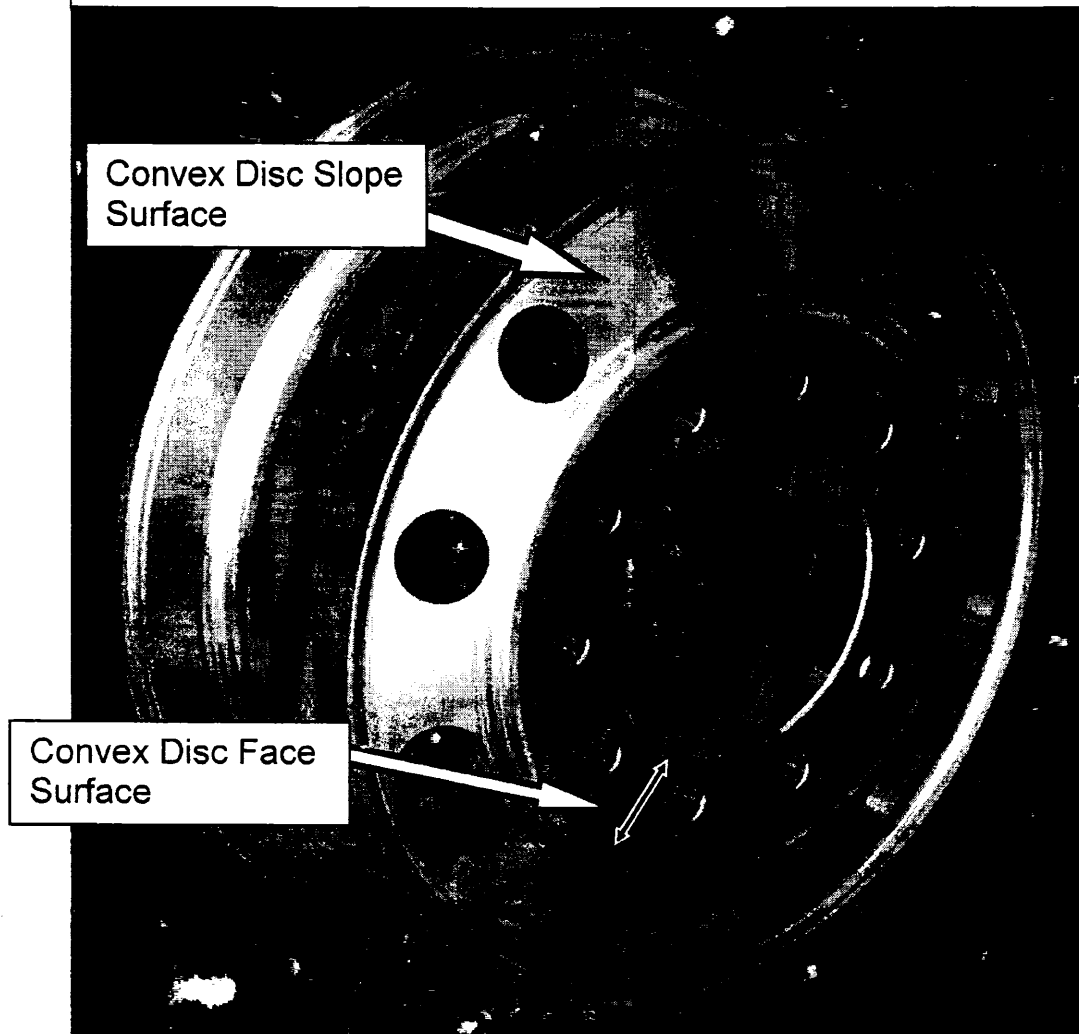
VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

See attached

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

**Picture 1. 22.5x8.25 29644ANP
Machined-Only Aluminum Wheel
with Improper Machining**



Dates of:
15th, 16th, 17th

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