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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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June 3, 2005

Ron Medford
Sr. Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

OSV-284
(13 pages)

**Re: Defect Information Report FL-453,
Holland AD Series Rear Suspension Transverse Beam**

Mr. Medford:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 634 Freightliner, Sterling, Western Star, American LaFrance, and Thomas Built Bus vehicles manufactured January 1, 2004 to approximately December 31, 2004 with a defect in the Holland AD series rear suspension.

Attached are Freightliner's Defect Information Report and the Part 573 Defect Report from Holland

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:

7003 2260 0001 3402 7089



A DaimlerChrysler Company

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

June 3, 2005

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

Brands: Freightliner, Sterling, Western Star, American LaFrance, Thomas Built Bus

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Specific models will be identified on a supplemental report when the final population is determined.

Manufacture Dates: January 1, 2004 to approximately December 31, 2004

Basis for determining population: Vehicles manufactured with Holland Neway AD-123, AD-124, AD-126, AD-127, AD-246, AD-248, AD-252, AD-254, AD-369, and AD-378 rear suspensions

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Holland USA, Inc.
1950 Industrial Blvd.
Muskegon, MI 49443-0425
Phone 616/396-6501

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected:

Freightliner, Western Star -- 263
Sterling -- 5
American LaFrance -- 53
Thomas Bus -- 313
TOTAL -- 634

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: See attached Part 573 Defect Report from Holland

(c)(5) Description of the defect: See attached Part 573 Defect Report from Holland

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: See attached Part 573 Defect Report from Holland

(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 July 29, 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-453

OSE-028 (b) (9)

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report⁴

On **April 4, 2005**, **Holland USA, Inc.** decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in items of 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: **April 8, 2005**

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): **N/A**

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner 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.

Holland USA, Inc.

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

John S. Foresman Director Reliability and Risk Management The Holland Group, Inc.

Telephone Number: **616-396-6501** Fax No. **616-396-1511** :

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

John S. Foresman
Director, Reliability and Risk Management

Signed: John S. Foresman

⁴Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5226 or by fax at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this 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:

The following equipment manufactured between January 1, 2004 and December 3, 2004 is involved in this recall. Holland's AD Series suspension is available in one, two or three axle configurations. There is one Transverse Beam per axle with two suspect castings per Transverse Beam which are the subject components of this recall. Holland also sells the AD Suspension Transverse Beam/Sub-Assembly individually to vehicle OEM's who buy their suspensions in component form.

Generic name of the item: Single (1) Drive Axle Suspension

Make: Holland Model: AD-123/124/126/127

Part Numbers: See attached Chart Function: Air Ride Suspension for Class 8 Vehicles and some School Buses

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Generic name of the item: Tandem (2) Drive Axle Suspension

Make: Holland Model: AD-246/248/252/254

Part Numbers: See attached Chart Function: Air Ride Suspension for Class 8 Vehicles

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Generic name of the item: Tridem (3) Drive Axle Suspension

Make: Holland Model: AD-369/378

Part Numbers: See attached Chart Function: Air Ride Suspension for Class 8 Vehicles

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Generic name of the item: Transverse Beam/Sub-Assembly

Make: Holland Model: Transverse Beam/Sub-Assembly for all Single, Tandem and

Tridem Drive Axle Models

Part Numbers: **See attached Chart** Function: **Transverse Beam/Sub-Assembly for AD Series Suspensions**

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

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. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

II. Identifying the Recall Population

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

The quantities below represent the recall population that was sold to vehicle OEMs and aftermarket customers in North America including the U.S., Mexico and Canada. We will need assistance from the Vehicle OEM's in determining what vehicle population exists in each of these countries.

Models: **AD-123/124/126/127** Year: **2004**

Number of Items Potentially Involved **2232 Single (1) Axle Suspensions with 4464 suspect castings or two per axle**

Models: **AD-246/248/252/254** Year: **2004**

Number of Items Potentially Involved **1973 Tandem (2) Axle Suspensions with 7892 suspect castings or two per axle**

Models: **AD-369/378** Year: **2004**

Number of Items Potentially Involved **15 Tridem (3) Axle Suspensions with 90 suspect castings or two per axle**

Model: Transverse Beam Sub-Assembly Year: 2004

Number of Items Potentially Involved 930 Transverse Beam/Sub-Assemblies with 1860 suspect castings or two per Transverse Beam Sub-Assembly.

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 4220 suspensions and 930 Transverse Beam/Sub-Assemblies or a total of 7,135 Transverse Beam Assemblies

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Estimated at 25%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment: Holland is recalling all AD Series Suspensions and Transverse Beam/Sub-Assemblies with Transverse Beam Castings cast by a foundry sourced by our supplier INPRO. Holland is recalling all castings from this supplier because it has found defective parts in multiple lots. Holland started incorporating the castings from this INPRO sourced foundry into AD Series Suspensions the first week of January 2004 and stopped December 3, 2004. Holland resumed production with Castings that met our specifications from a new supplier starting December 3, 2004. The suspect castings can be identified by a unique foundry mark shown in an attached picture which is a "SS".

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.

An undetermined percentage of Transverse Beam castings from the foundry sourced by our supplier INPRO were not made to specification and 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 causing sparks that could potentially ignite a fire.

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

The foundry supplying the castings either did not properly cast the metal or properly heat treat it to give it the correct chemical and physical properties per Holland's specifications.

Describe the consequences of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Potential for pieces of broken casting to become projectiles in the roadway and the potential for the metal Transverse Beam to contact roadway creating sparks and a potential risk of fire.

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

a) No preceding warning b) If a casting breaks the driver could hear a loud noise.

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

INPRO

66 Witherspoon St. Suite 200 Princeton, NJ 08542

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

Animesh Patniak
Vice President

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.

- 10/28/04 Metallurgical tests of a warranty returned Transverse Beam casting revealed that it was out of specification with regards to Ductility.
- 10/28/04-11/19/04 Investigation of parts in production determined that parts from some heat lots were out of specification.
- 11/19/04 All parts put on Hold as "suspect"
- 11/30/04 Meeting was held to review inspection data and field information. Based on test data, certain heat lots were approved and released for production. Field information indicated 12 warranty claims and no reports of any accidents caused by a broken Transverse Beam casting. It was also determined that there was no evidence that a broken casting would cause any loss of vehicle control.
- 12/3/04 Castings conforming to specification from a new source started in production. All "suspect" castings and parts placed on Hold.
- 3/21/05 A meeting was held to determine whether Holland should campaign AD Series Suspensions used on Fire trucks and other public safety vehicles. Holland had received a warranty claim from a fire department and the concern was raised that if the Transverse Beam casting broke a fire truck might not be able to get to a fire. It was determined at this meeting that further investigation was required.
- 4/4/05 As a result of further investigation, it was determined that the failure of a casting on a Transverse Beam Assembly would not cause a loss of vehicle control. However, it was determined that parts of the failed casting could become projectiles and that the Transverse Beam could contact the roadway, producing sparks and a risk of fire. Therefore, Holland made the determination that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety existed and that it should conduct a recall of Transverse Beam Assemblies which potentially contain defective castings.

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.

There is no way to identify which of the Transverse Beam Castings from the suspect foundry are defective without destructive testing. Holland USA, Inc. will therefore replace all Transverse

Beam Assemblies containing castings with foundry code "SS". Holland USA, Inc. has changed foundry suppliers and will replace all the potentially defective Transverse Beam Assemblies with parts from new suppliers that meet Holland's specifications.

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

The potentially defective castings have a distinctive foundry mark containing two capital letters "SS". The replacement castings will have other different foundry markings. There are also castings in the field produced prior to January 1, 2004 that are not defective or the subject of this recall that will also have foundry marks other than "SS".

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 foundry supplier was changed from INPRO to other suppliers that meet Holland's specifications with production starting December 3, 2004. Castings from other suppliers meeting Holland specifications will also be used for the recall remedy.

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.

Action Taken:	On or before:
Notification to NHTSA	April 8, 2005
Notify OEMs of recall and request vehicle owner information	April 15, 2005
Complete inspection criteria, repair procedure and notification letters	May 13, 2005
Initial mailing of notification of recall and repair procedures: - to OEM Dealers - to identified users	- May 30, 2005 - May 30, 2005
Replacement Transverse Beam Assemblies available	June 6, 2005

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.*

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

**AD Series Sales to OEMs for all 123 / 126
Ratings and Configurations
Jan 1, '04 to Dec 3, '04**

Truck / Tractor

Kenworth

P/N	Model	Kit/Comp TOTAL	Sngl Axle TOTAL
33023000	123-10	668	668
33023001	123-12	25	25
33023002	126-10	277	277
33023003	252-10	2	4
33023007	246-10	742	1,484
33023008	246-12	25	50
33023009	252-10	468	936
33023011	378-10	2	6

Ken Brownstein

Peterbilt

33100023	252-10	32	64
33100091	378-10	13	39

Volvo

90546204	sub-assem	38	38
90548134	sub-assem	4	4

Mack

90545987	sub-assem	38	38
90545989	sub-assem	16	16
90545995	sub-assem	127	127
90545997	sub-assem	108	108

International

90545997	sub-assem	406	406
90546171	sub-assem	144	144

Freightliner Truck / W Star / Sterling

33000746	246-10	94	188
33000747	123-10	4	4
33000818	252-10	59	118
33000850	252-10	2	4
33000862	246-10	44	88
33000922	252-8.75	3	6
33000872	126-10	16	16
33000873	123-10	1	1
33000925	248-8.75	7	14
33000933	126-10	2	2
33000947	252-12	9	18
33000949	127-8.75	7	7
33000968	126-10	2	2
33000995	126-8.75	1	1
33000999	126-12	3	3
33001165	252-12	2	4

33001168	252-12	1	2
33006077	123	4	4
33100029	246-12	2	4
33100180	126-12	1	1
33100181	252-12	1	2
33100192	128-15	3	3

Auto Car

90546204	246-10	28	56
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Front Discharge Mixer

Terex Advance

33000997	123-14.4	139	139
33000998	123-15.5	137	137
33100013	123-14.4	12	12
33100014	123-15.5	12	12
33100036	126-14.4	6	6
33100037	126-15.5	6	6

Indiana Phoenix

33100144	123-15.5	12	12
33100145	123-14.4	13	13
33100157	123-14.4	32	32
33100158	123-15.5	34	34

Oshkosh

33008073	252-14.4	27	54
33006079	246-14.4	366	732

Fire Apparatus

American LaFrance

33000922	252-8.75	10	20
33000925	248-8.75	9	18
33000933	126-10	1	1
33000935	127-8.75	28	28
33000936	124-8.75	5	5

HME

33000905	124-10	4	4
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Pierce

33100035	254-10	6	12
33100070	248-10	19	38
33100108	246-12	2	4
33100109	248-12	1	2
33100136	124-10	6	6
33100138	127-10	11	11
33100172	254-10	2	4
33100214	124-10	1	1
33100215	254-12	1	2

Spartan

33100122	127-10	1	1
33100152	127-10	3	3
33100189	254-8.75	7	14

Seagrave

33100173	254-10	2	4
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Bus

Thomas Built Bus

90548038	123-6.5	313	313
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Mercedes-Benz Mexico

33100163	123-6.5	213	213
33100196	123-6.5	156	156

Subtotal 5,028 7,031

HUSA Transfer

Holland Canada

33000855	123-10	2	2
33000875	126-10	11	11
33000890	126-10	1	1
(TOR Truck) 33100005	123-13.6	53	53

Holland Australia

33000733	123-6	44	44
33000851	252-11	8	16
33000923	369-12	7	21
33100000	246-11	18	36
33100011	246-8.15	72	144
33100110	246-10	106	212
33100203	246-11	9	18
33100208	252-10	5	10
33100207	246-10	114	228
33100209	252-11	11	22
33100211	126-11	3	3
33100213	369-12	8	24

Subtotal 472 845

Total 5,500 7,876

Aftermarket Sales - Jan 1, 2004 through Dec 3, 2004

Account	Acct #	P/N	Desc.	Qty
Southwest Brake & Parts	100100	90545997	T-Beam Assem	1
Ness Company	101923	90545989	T-Beam Assem	1
		90545997	T-Beam Assem	1
Palmer Trailer Sales	101929	90545997	T-Beam Assem	2
HD America	112149	90545997	T-Beam Assem	1
		90547660	T-Beam Assem	1
Dayton Parts	112530	90545995	T-Beam Assem	1
		90545997	T-Beam Assem	1

Paccar Parts - Kenworth	106180	90545997	T-Beam Assem	2
		90545987	T-Beam Assem	4
Freightliner PDC	106229	90545987	T-Beam Assem	2
		90545997	T-Beam Assem	3
		33006077	AD-123	1
Freightliner Distributor	106297	33100040	AD-123-6,5	1
Viking Truck & Equipment	112131	33006079	AD Kit	1
		90545987	T-Beam Assem	2
Mack Direct Ship	112323	90545997	T-Beam Assem	1
McNeilus DS	112448	90545997	T-Beam Assem	3
Terex Advance PDC	112856	90545997	T-Beam Assem	4
Oshkosh Direct Ship	114304	33006079	AD Kit	3
		90545997	T-Beam Assem	1

OEM Sales - Jan 1, 2004 through Dec 3, 2004

Individual T-Beam assemblies shipped to kit supplied OEMs

Account	Acct #	P/N	Desc.	Qty
Kenworth	100062	90545997	T-Beam Assem	1
Daimler Chrysler Vehiculos	106257	90546255	T-Beam Assem	4
Indiana Phoenix	111810	90545997	T-Beam Assem	4
Oshkosh Truck	112358	90545987	T-Beam Assem	2

Holland Transfer - Jan 1, 2004 - Dec 3, 2004

Account	Acct #	P/N	Desc.	Qty
Holland Australia	HHAUST	90545987	T-Beam Assem	21
Holland Canada	HHCANAD	90545997	T-Beam Assem	1
Holland Canada West	HHSURREY	90545997	T-Beam Assem	6