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Government Technical Affairs

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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

*05 V-285
(2 pages)*

Re: Defect Information Report FL-451, ConMet 3rd Generation Front Hubs

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 625 Freightliner, Century ST, Columbia and Coronado vehicles manufactured January through April 2004 date with a defect in certain front hubs manufactured by Con Met.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information 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:

7003 2260 0001 3402 7072

FREIGHTLINER®

LLC

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

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Century ST, Columbia, Coronado

Manufacture Dates: January through April 2004

Basis for determining population: Freightliner Century, Columbia, Coronado, and FLD with ConMet 3rd Generation Hubs manufactured during the first four months of production (Jan-Apr '04) at ConMet's Rivergate plant on vehicles with aluminum wheels, and X30 or Centrifuse drums. Rivergate furnished hubs for Freightliner's Portland and Santiago plants.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Consolidated Metco, Inc.
13940 N. Rivergate Blvd.
Portland, OR 97203

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 625

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: Unknown

(c)(5) Description of the defect: The Rivergate plant had manufacturing inconsistencies at the start of production that affects hubs used with certain wheel and drum combinations. Different wheels and drums affect the loads and stresses in the hubs.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:

In November 2004, ConMet presented information to Freightliner concerning a 3rd Generation front hub that had been returned as a warranty from the field with a crack that separated the flange from the barrel of the hub. ConMet initiated an investigation into design, material properties, hub manufacturing and common wheel/drum/hub configurations. Freightliner cooperated with the continued investigation and fleet inspections were done.

ConMet has recommended replacing hubs manufactured during the first four months of production at Rivergate that were installed on vehicles with aluminum wheels, and X30 or Centrifuse drums.

ConMet's recommendation is based on findings related to a combination of hub/wheel/drum configuration and variability in the manufacturing process.

(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 have been 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-451