



Land Rover North America

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JUN 28 2005

June 21, 2005

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PA
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

05 V-300

(3 pages)

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Land Rover Recall No. B011 – Certain 2002 to 2005 Model Year – Freelander 5-Door Vehicles - Child Lock Incorrect Operation

Summary

- Land Rover Action – Land Rover is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2002 to 2005 Model Year Freelander 5-Door vehicles built at the Solihull (UK) Assembly Plant from March 29, 2002, through April 19, 2005 to have the left hand rear door latch inspected and, where necessary, the latch replaced.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – 2845 vehicles in the United States and Federated Territories.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation – It is possible to operate the interior door handle to open the door when the Child Safety Lever is in the on position.
- Service Program - Vehicles will be inspected to determine if the latch is from the affected batch. If needed, the assembly will be replaced with a known good part.

Attached is the detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 - Defect Information Report.

Sincerely,

Dennis T. Johnston
Manager
Product Compliance

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Mahwah, New Jersey 07430
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49 CFR Part 573 - DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
RECALL B011 – 2002 to 2005 Model Year Land Rover Freelander 5 Door vehicles

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Land Rover submits the following information concerning a safety recall action that it is voluntarily initiating.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

Subject Vehicles: Certain 2002 to 2005 Model Year Freelander 5 Door vehicles fitted or serviced with the latches supplied from September 20, 2004 to April 15, 2005.

Most latches have been fitted on 2005 Model Year Freelander 5 Door vehicles; however, it is possible that some of them may have been used as replacement parts on previous model year vehicles.

Subject Component: Left Hand Rear Door Latch, part number ALR9787

Supplier: BROSE SCHLIESSYSTEME GMBH
Otto Hahn Str. 34
42369 Wuppertal
Germany
Contact: Dr. – Ing. Peter Stratil, Quality Manager
Phone: 011 49 2024667548

573.6 (c) (3) -- Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

2845 vehicles in the United States and its Territories may have been affected.

573.6 (c) (4) - Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Condition

Approximately 1.25% of the vehicles may contain the concern

573.6 (c) (5) -- Description of the Defect

The Child Safety Lever, incorporated into the rear door latch assembly fitted to the left hand rear door, when engaged, may permit the door to be opened by the interior door handle (when the Child Safety Lever is still in the 'on' position). The condition is a result of a batch of improperly manufactured inner release levers assembled into left door latches. These inner release levers may contact the latch clutch lever rotating the latch clutch and activating the latch.

573.6 (c) (6) -- Chronology of Events

On April 15, 2005, a worker on the Customer Acceptance Line within the Assembly Plant noticed that the child lock on the left hand rear door was not operational even though the Child Safety Lever was in the 'on' position. A Hold Shipment at the plant was immediately issued. All vehicles in the plant were reviewed for operation of the Child Lock. A notice was issued on May 2, 2005 for vehicles at the staging areas and at the ports to be inspected and repaired prior to release. At this time, engineering work commenced to determine the effect that an out-of-specification inner release lever would have on the operation of the latch, the cause of the incorrect manufacture of the inner release lever, and the number and locations of vehicles that could contain potentially affected assemblies. The findings of this investigation were discussed in the Land Rover Technical Review Group on May 19, June 3 and on June 14, 2005. The decision was made on June 14, 2005 by Land Rover management to

voluntarily recall these remaining vehicles to inspect the rear left hand door latches and replace where necessarily.

There have been no accidents or injuries that we are aware of as a result of the concern.

573.6 (c) (8) Service Program

Vehicles will be inspected to determine if the latch assembly is from the affected batch. If needed, the latch assembly will be replaced with a known good part. Owner and dealer communication letters will be issued when replacement parts are secured.

573.6 (c) (10 & 11) -- Press statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Land Rover does not plan to make a public statement concerning the subject matter of this action. A copy of the Notification letters to dealers and owners from Land Rover will be submitted to NHTSA for your review and approval when available.

573.6 (c) (12) -- Recall Number

Land Rover has assigned recall number B011 to this action.