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November 17, 2005

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

05V-551
(2 pages)

Re: Defect Information Report FL-467, AAC Front Axle I-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 500 Freightliner and Sterling trucks manufactured from September 6, 2005 through Oct 20, 2005 with a defect in the front axle I-beam.

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 3403 5923

Defect Information Report
(Section 573.6)

November 17, 2005

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

Brands: Freightliner and Sterling Trucks; Freightliner Custom Chassis

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Business Class M2, Century, Columbia, Coronado; Sterling AT, LT, Acterra; FCC Motor Homes

Model Years affected: 2006

Manufacture Dates: September 6, 2005 through October 20, 2005

Basis for determining population: Vehicles fitted with AAC front axles using I-Beam part numbers 1201, 1301, 6701 and 7301.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Axle Alliance Company
12120 Telegraph Road
Redford, MI 48239

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

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 100%

(c)(5) Description of the defect: A forging defect in the I-Beam top flange may result in a reduction in axle service life.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:

The axle I-beam may fatigue and fracture, causing a possible loss of vehicle control and subsequent crash without prior warning.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: In late October 2005, AAC discovered a forging defect in the top flange of the front axle I-beam, adjacent to the inboard side of the spring seat. An improper repair in the forge tooling caused a reduction in axle section creating a stress riser and as a consequence a possible reduction in axle service life.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: Not Applicable

(c)(8) Remedial program: Repairs will be performed by Freightliner and Sterling Dealerships and Direct Warranty Customers. Dealers will be notified by January 5, 2006. The repair requires replacement of the front axle assembly.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customers will be notified by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately January 10, 2006.

Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(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-467