

FREIGHTLINER®
LLC

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DEFECT INVESTIGATION

Timothy A. Blubaugh
Director
Government Technical Affairs

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December 22, 2005

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

06V-006
2 pages

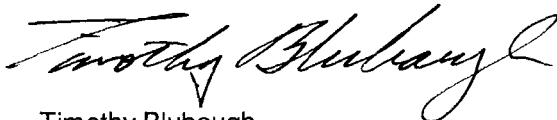
Re: Defect Information Report FL-468

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 1,975 Freightliner Coronado trucks manufactured from October 2000 through January 2005 with a potential defect in the steering wheel.

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 3851

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

December 22, 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: Coronado

Model Years affected: 2001 through 2005

Manufacture Dates: Approximately October 1, 2000 through January 1, 2005

Basis for determining population: All Coronado's supplied with VIP part numbers A14-14568-000, A14-14568-001 and A14-14568-002 steering wheels.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Vehicle Improvement Products (VIP).

151 RAM Road

Antioch, Ill. 60002

Joe Schurger, President

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 1,975 Additionally, 2,550 were sold to Freightliner dealers for use in the aftermarket.

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 0.5 percent

(c)(5) Description of the defect: Some steering wheels maybe manufactured with incorrect length Huck Fasteners that are too short to allow proper collar engagement on the pin.
49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: The steering wheel will feel loose on the hub for a period of time, with the subsequent possibility of a complete separation. Steering wheel separation will result in a loss of steering control, possibly resulting in a crash.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:

In late July 2005, Freightliner Service received a report of a steering wheel separation on a 2001 Coronado. The customer said the wheel had felt loose for 3-4 weeks and that he had noted one of the Huck fasteners with a missing swaged collar. The wheel subsequently partially separated from the hub at a loading dock. In early December 2005, a similar wheel was noticed in a Freightliner dealership parts area that had one Huck Fastener that was too short.

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

(c)(8) Remedial program: Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers. Dealers will be notified approximately February 10, 2006. The steering wheels will be inspected for correct length Huck fasteners. Steering wheels will be repaired or replaced, to be determined.

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 February 15, 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-468