

**FREIGHTLINER**<sup>®</sup>  
LLC  
A DaimlerChrysler Company

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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May 24, 2006

06V-190  
3 pages

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

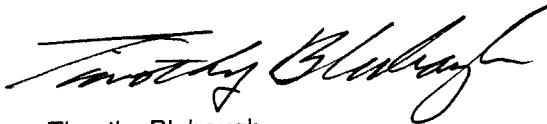
**Re: Defect Information Report (FL-476), NHTSA 06V-TBD**

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information concerning the safety campaign to recall approximately 61,000 Freightliner Argosy, Century Class S/T and Columbia trucks manufactured from September 2004 through October 2005 with a potential defect in the installation of the protective cover for the cab power distribution module.

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

Certified Mail Article Number: 7003 2260 0001 3403 4278



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## Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

May 24, 2006

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

**Brands:** Freightliner

**(c)(2) Vehicles identification:**

**Model(s) affected:** Argosy, Century Class S/T and Columbia

**Model Years affected:** 2005, 2006

**Manufacture Dates:** September 7, 2004 though October 17, 2005

**Basis for determining population:** All subject vehicles built from September 7, 2004 through October 17, 2005.

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:**

Tyco Electronics  
3800 Reidsville Road  
Winston-Salem, NC 27102  
Gary R. Marpoe, Director, Engineering

**(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 61,000 Argosy, Century Class S/T and Columbia.

**(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** Approximately 35%

**(c)(5) Description of the defect:** The protective cover for the cab Power Distribution Model (PDM) may be missing or improperly installed.

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** If the protective cover is missing or not positioned correctly, any water intrusion from an open window or windshield leak may seep through the upper dash cover seam and drip onto the PDM. Water on the PDM circuits may cause a short circuit resulting in a fire that could cause personal injury.

**(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:**

September 2004: Subject PDM implemented in production.

October 2004: A dash fire occurred in a new Argosy vehicle. A fire investigator attributed the fire to a short circuit in the cab PDM from water intrusion combined with paint pretreatment solution.

December 2004: A plastic cover was introduced at the plant to protect the PDM from liquids.

Plant processes were modified to reduce the chance of cab pretreatment liquids from contacting the PDM.

January 2005: More issues related to water intrusion into the PDM were reported for vehicles with covers. Vehicle inspections showed a large percentage of the covers were not installed correctly.

February 2005: Plant procedures modified to improve cover installation.

March 2005: PDM field unit samples returned for analysis to determine the effects of water intrusion. Quality Team formed to coordinate investigation and pursue a solution. Tests determined the leak paths to the PDM.

August 2005: Fixed drip shields prototyped and reviewed with mixed results. Cover development continues. Field investigations and data analysis continue. Testing continues to evaluate the effects and failure modes of a contaminated PDM.

October 2006: A PDM not susceptible to water intrusion is implemented in production.

April 2006: Field claims now total approximately 80 thermal events, most of which were an overheat condition causing some melting of components. 10 resulted in vehicle fires. There have been no known injuries or accidents.

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

**(c)(8) Remedial program:** Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers. A new cover is planned that will better ensure a correct installation.

**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 18, 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-476