

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

06V-338
(13 pages)

On September 1, 2006, Alfa Leisure decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: September 1, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Alfa Leisure Inc. 13501 5th Street Chino, CA 91710

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

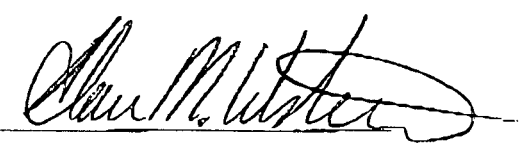
Alan Westerlin TREAD Act Coordinator

Telephone Number: 800-373-3372 Fax No.: 909-628-0294

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Alan Westerlin
TREAD Act Coordinator

Signed:



¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Alfa Leisure Model Years Involved: 2005-2006 Model(s): SeeYa

Production Dates: Beginning: 4/11/05 Ending: On or about 2/14/06

VIN Range: Beginning: 73351 Ending: 74156

Vehicle Type: H Bodystyle: Motorhome

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

The model SeeYa motorhome has a 12,500# front axle. Founder and Gold models do not use this model axle.

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1,

1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period. 65%

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Vehicles Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Potentially Involved</u>
SeeYa	2005	61
SeeYa	2006	250

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 311

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

Population was determined by reviewing Freightliner provided dates of production and comparing that to Alfa Leisure production records. SeeYa model motor homes are the only model that use the 12,500# axle described. No other models are affected.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

Certain vehicles manufactured by Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, may have been manufactured with tie rods that are too short for the front axle crossbar taper. The resulting gap between the crossbar and tie rod end may result in corrosion between the 2 pieces. Lack of maintenance would increase the possibility of corrosion.

Please see attached Freightliner Field Service Campaign SF332AB

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The tie rods were manufactured with threads that are too short, causing a gap between the crossbar and the tie rod. This gap may cause corrosion and cause the connection to fail.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Excessive corrosion, over a period of time could cause the crossbar to tie rod connection to fail, causing a lack of steering control and a potential accident.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Part may fail with little or no warning.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation

P.O. Box 4090

Portland, OR 97208-4090

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Ian Dawson Government Technical Affairs Freightliner LLC

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

Alfa Leisure received notification of a Field Service Campaign SF332AB on or about August 15, 2006. After review of the Freightliner provided information and based off of the potential for future failures, on September 1, 2006, Alfa Leisure decided that a Safety defect might exist in the Alfa SeeYa motorhome chassis' listed. Alfa Leisure has received no reports of any failures. Alfa Leisure has received no reports of accidents, injuries, deaths, or warranty claims.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

Affected owners should contact Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation at 800-385-4357 or a local Freightliner dealership immediately for an appointment to have their vehicle repaired.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

Please see the attached bulletin. Affected coach will have a gap between the tie rod and the front axle crossbar taper.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Please see attached bulletin. Non-affected chassis' will not have a gap between the tie rod and the front axle crossbar taper. Repaired coaches will have a "completion sticker" attached, referencing Field Service Campaign #SF332AB

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The correct length tie rod end went into Freightliner production on or about October 13, 2005. Further information should be obtained from Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Freightliner Custom Chassis has set an end date for free repairs of July 31, 2007. Repairs made after the date will be at the owner's expense.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.

Subject: FCCC Front Axle Tie Rod Thread Engagement

Models Affected: Specific Freightliner Custom Chassis XC chassis manufactured with TRW AS120 suspensions and 12,000 lb. front axles built between April 4, 2005, and October 13, 2005.

General Information

Freightliner LLC, on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary, Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, is initiating Field Service Campaign SF332AB to modify the vehicles mentioned above.

Certain vehicles may have been manufactured with tie rods that are too short for the front axle crossbar taper.

The tie rod will be inspected and replaced if necessary with a longer tie rod assembly. If the tie rod is replaced, a toe-in alignment procedure will also be performed.

There are approximately 2,000 vehicles involved.

IMPORTANT: Vehicles in SF332B have already been repaired, and no further work is necessary. SF332B is for reporting purposes only.

Additional Repairs

Dealers must complete all outstanding field service campaigns prior to the sale or delivery of a vehicle. A Dealer will be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns before sale or delivery of a vehicle.

Owners may be liable for any progressive damage that results from their failure to complete campaigns within a reasonable time after receiving notification.

Please contact Warranty Campaigns for consideration of additional charges prior to performing the repair.

Work Instructions

Please refer to the attached work instructions. Prior to performing the campaign, check the vehicle for a completion sticker (Form WAR261).

Replacement Parts

Replacement kits are now available and can be obtained by ordering the kit number listed below from your facing Parts Distribution Center.

If our records show your distributorship has ordered any vehicle(s) involved in campaign SF332AB, a list of the customers and vehicle identification numbers will be available on AccessFreightliner.com. Please refer to this list when ordering parts for this campaign.

Table 1 - Replacement Kits for SF332AB

Campaign Number	Kit Number	Part Description	Part Number	Qty. per Kit	Suggested Wholesale*
SF332A	25-SF332-000	Tie Rod Assembly	ABP P6803304403	1 ea	\$196.79 US
		Completion Sticker	WAR261	1 ea	\$284.92 CAN

* Please charge all Direct Warranty Customers the above-listed price for the kit, as they are authorized to perform their own Field Service Campaigns.

Table 1

Field Service Campaign

July 2006
SF332AB

Removed Parts

Please follow Warranty Failed Parts Tracking shipping instructions for the disposition of all removed parts.

Labor Allowance

Table 2 - Labor Allowance

Campaign Number	Procedure	Time Allowed (hours)	SRT Code	Damage Code
SF332A	Inspect tie rod assembly	0.1	996-0673A	000-Inspected
	Inspect and remove and replace tie rod assembly	1.3	996-0673B	000-Modifiedx

Table 2

IMPORTANT: When the campaign has been completed, locate the base completion label in the appropriate location on the vehicle, and attach the gray completion sticker provided in the field service kit (Form WAR261). If the vehicle does not have a base completion label, clean a spot on the appropriate location of the vehicle and first attach the base completion label (Form WAR259). If a field service kit is not required or there is no completion sticker in the kit, write the campaign number on a blank sticker and attach it to the base completion label.

Claims for Credit

You will be reimbursed for your labor, parts and handling by submitting your claim through the Warranty system within 30 days of completing the campaign. Please reference the following information in QuickClaim:

- Claim type is **Field Service**.
- In the FTL Authorization field, enter the campaign number and appropriate condition code (**SF332A**).
- In the Primary Failed Part Number field, enter **25-SF332-000**.
- In the Parts field, enter the appropriate kit number(s) as shown in the Replacement Parts Table. Not all vehicles will require replacement of the tie rod assembly. Please do not over-order kits.
- In the Labor field, first enter the appropriate SRT from the Labor Allowance Table. For administrative time, enter SRT 939-0010A for 0.4 hours.

This Field Service Campaign will **terminate on July 31, 2007**. Dealers will be notified of any changes to the termination date via Important Campaign Information Letter posted on AccessFreightliner.com.

NOTE: ServicePro[®]/Service Advisor[®] must be viewed prior to beginning work to ensure the vehicle is involved and the campaign has not previously been completed. Also, check for a completion sticker before beginning work.

All claims must be submitted within 30 days of the repair and within 30 days of the termination date of the campaign. All excess inventory to be returned to the PDC following the conclusion of the campaign must be returned in resaleable condition to the Memphis PDC within 90 days from the termination date. Please submit a PAR to request return to the Memphis PDC. (Canadian dealers should return the kits to their facing PDC.)

Contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, Web inquiry at AccessFreightliner.com / Support / Submit an Inquiry, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) 385-4357, after normal business hours, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Copy of Letter to Owner

Subject: FCCC Front Axle Tie Rod Thread Engagement

Freightliner LLC, on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary, Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, is initiating Field Service Campaign SF332AB to modify specific Freightliner Custom Chassis XC chassis manufactured with TRW AS120 suspensions and 12,000 lb. front axles built between April 4, 2005, and October 13, 2005.

Certain vehicles may have been manufactured with tie rods that are too short for the front axle crossbar taper.

The tie rod will be inspected and replaced if necessary with a longer tie rod assembly. If the tie rod is replaced, a toe-in alignment procedure will also be performed.

Repair kits are now available for authorized dealers to order. Contact your authorized dealer to arrange to have your vehicle(s) modified as soon as possible and to assure that parts are available at the dealer. To locate a dealer, search online at www.FreightlinerCustomChassis.com or contact the Warranty Campaigns Department for assistance.

When you contact your dealer, refer to Field Service Campaign **SF332A** and your vehicle identification number. Once kit(s) are received at the dealership, the campaign may take up to two hours and will be performed at no charge to you.

This Field Service Campaign will **terminate on July 31, 2007**. Please make sure your vehicle(s) is modified prior to this date. Modifications completed after this date will be done at the customer's expense.

As stated in the terms of your express limited warranty, Freightliner LLC will not pay for any damage caused by failure to properly maintain your vehicle. Freightliner LLC considers the work necessary under this campaign to be proper maintenance and will, therefore, not pay for any damage to your vehicle caused by your failure to have the repairs that are the subject of this campaign performed in a reasonable time.

IMPORTANT: When the campaign has been completed on your vehicle, please ensure that a completion sticker has been affixed to your vehicle referencing **SF332A**.

Contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, e-mail address WarrantyCampaigns@Freightliner.com, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours, if you have any questions or need additional information.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

Field Service Campaign

FREIGHTLINER
LLC

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July 2006
SF332AB

Work Instructions

Subject: FCCC Front Axle Tie Rod Thread Engagement

Models Affected: Specific Freightliner Custom Chassis XC chassis manufactured with TRW AS120 suspensions and 12,000 lb. front axles built between April 4, 2005, and October 13, 2005.

IMPORTANT: Vehicles in SF332B have already been repaired, and no further work is necessary. SF332B is for reporting purposes only.

Tie Rod Assembly Inspection

1. Inspect the base completion label (Form WAR259), located on the front wall under the dash, for a campaign completion sticker (Form WAR261).

If a sticker is present for SF332, no further work needs to be done.

If no sticker is present, proceed with the steps below.

2. Park the vehicle on a level surface, apply the parking brakes, shut down the engine, and chock the rear tires.
3. Inspect the tie rod for correct thread engagement. There must be threads showing the full length of the slot. See Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

If the tie rod thread engagement is correct on both ends, no further work needs to be done. Go to step 4.

If the tie rod thread engagement is not correct on both ends, go to the tie rod assembly replacement.

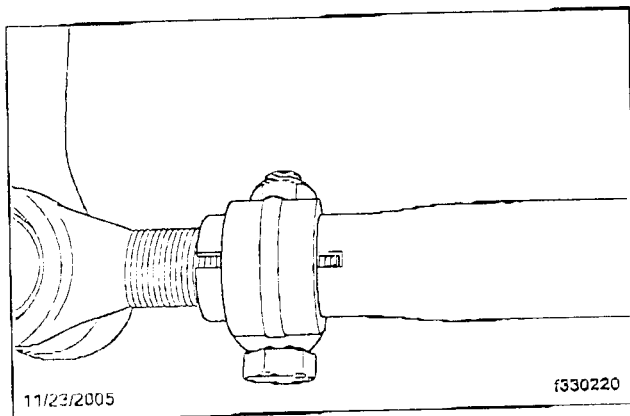


Fig. 1, Correct Tie Rod Thread Engagement

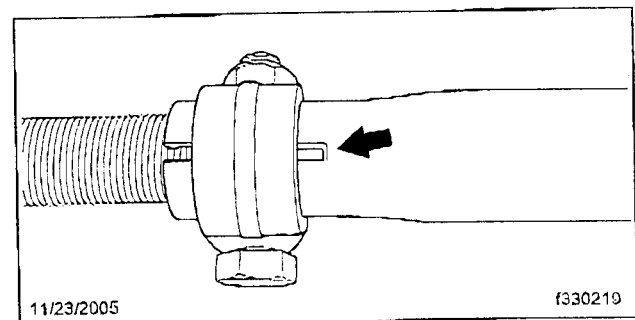


Fig. 2, Incorrect Tie Rod Thread Engagement

4. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259). The base label is usually located on the front wall under the dash. Attach a completion sticker for campaign SF332 (Form WAR261) to the base label.

Tie Rod Assembly Replacement

IMPORTANT: Before replacing the tie rod assemblies, make sure the tires are pointing straight ahead. Do not turn the steering wheel at any time during this procedure.

1. Measure and record the center-to-center distance between the tie rod end grease fittings. See Fig. 3.

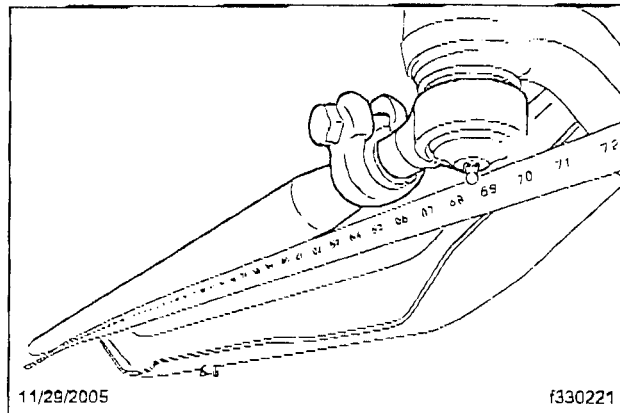


Fig. 3, Center-to-Center Distance Between Tie Rod End Grease Fittings

2. With the tires straight ahead, and using a ball-stud removal tool, disconnect the tie rod cross tube from the right- and left-side axle steering arms.
3. Remove and discard the cotter pins and castle nuts from the tie rod ends to the tie rod arms.

IMPORTANT: Use care when performing the following procedures to avoid damaging the tie rod arms.

4. Remove the tie rod end tapers from the tie rod arms and remove and discard the tie rod assembly.
5. Measure the exposed thread on the ends of the new tie rod assembly. Adjust until the exposed thread on either tie rod end is within 0.125 inches (3 mm) of each other.
6. Install the replacement tie rod assembly from the kit in the tapered tie rod arm holes. The tie rod tube should hang below the tie rod arms and the tie rod clamp nuts should face the rear of the vehicle, with the clamps hanging below the tube.

IMPORTANT: Use the new fasteners that come loosely installed on the tie rod assembly from the kit. Do **not** use the old fasteners.

7. Install the castle nuts and tighten them 160 to 300 lbf-ft (217 to 407 N·m).
8. Adjust the castle nuts by turning them clockwise until the hole in the tie rod end ball stud is aligned with the nearest slot on the castle nut.
9. Install new cotter pins into the left and right tie rod end ball studs. Bend the tangs of the cotter pins to ensure retention.
10. Roughly adjust the toe-in by twisting the tie rod tube until the distance between the grease fittings equals the center-to-center distance recorded earlier. Adjust the tube clamps so that the bolts hang below the tie rod end tube.
11. Tighten the clamp nuts and bolts 40 to 60 lbf ft (55 to 82 N·m).
12. Pump multipurpose chassis grease NLGI Grade 1 (6% 12-hydroxy lithium stearate grease) or NLGI Grade 2 (8% 12-hydroxy lithium stearate grease) into the tie rod ends until grease flows out of the ball-stud necks. Wipe off excess grease.

NOTE: NLGI Grade 2 grease is preferred.

13. Verify that you cannot see through the slots in the tie rod tube. See Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

Field Service Campaign

July 2006
SF332AB

14. Perform a front-wheel toe-in alignment procedure. For instructions, see **Section 33.00, Subject 140**, in the *Recreational Vehicle Chassis Workshop Manual*.
15. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259). The base label is usually located on the front wall under the dash. Attach a completion sticker for campaign SF332 (Form WAR261) to the base label.
16. Remove the chocks from the tires.