



TRUCK GROUP

December 18, 2006

06V-489
(3 pages)

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

Subject: Vehicle Defect Initial Information Report

Pursuant to Part 573.6 (c) (1), this Vehicle Defect Initial Information Report is submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration by **International Truck and Engine Corporation**.

(1) IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLES [Part 573.6 (c)(2)]

- Vehicle Models Involved:
 - MY 2005, 2006 and 2007: CF500 and CF600
- Vehicle Manufacturing Dates:
 - 6/2/2004 thru 7/20/2006
- Other Identification Necessary to Describe Vehicles:
 - None

(2) COMPONENT MANUFACTURER [Part 573.6 (c)(2)(iv)]

- This report does not relate to a component supplied by a manufacturer other than International Truck and Engine Corporation.

(3) VEHICLE POPULATION INVOLVED [Part 573.6 (c)(3)]

<i>Model</i>	<i>U.S. Quantity</i>	<i>Canada Quantity</i>	<i>Mexico Quantity</i>	<i>Export Quantity</i>
CF500	1,147	142	198	14
CF600	876	671	566	41
Grand Totals	2,023	813	764	55

(4) PERCENTAGE OF VEHICLES ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN DEFECT [Part 573.6 (c)(4)]

- All (100%) of the vehicles in the suspect population are estimated to contain the defect.

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

(5) *DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT [Part 573.6 (c)(5)]*

- Under normal usage, the a-pillar mounted entry/egress grab handle may loosen and possibly separate from the vehicle.
- This separation can occur without warning and possibly contribute to personal injury.

(6) *CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF A SAFETY DEFECT or TEST RESULTS THAT LED TO DETERMINATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE [Part 573.6 (c)(6)/(7)]*

- 3/13/2006 International Compliance was notified that a driver's side entry/egress grab handle had separated from its attachment point. No injury was reported.
- 3/23/2006 A field inspection on several vehicles did not show signs of impending separation.
- 5/15/2006 International completed a computer analysis of the affected area. It showed high stress levels in the handle's upper attachment point when the lower mount is loosened.
- 5/17/2006 International Compliance was notified that a second unit had experienced a separation of the driver's side entry/egress grab handle.
- 6/9/2006 Initial testing of original and newly designed handle began physical durability testing. Test was suspended because of incorrect input loads.
- 6/29/2006 International was notified that a third unit had experienced driver side grab handle separation.
- 7/20/2006 International contained the issue by producing vehicles with a newly designed handle.
- 9/9/2006 A second durability test was initiated with new input loads to determine both the extent of the failures of the suspect grab handle, and to validate the new proposed design.
- 9/10/2006 The suspect two legged grab handle on the driver side failed the durability test at 2600 cycles, which equates to approximately two years of use on the vehicle.
- 10/19/2006 Durability testing complete on field remedy.
- 11/13/2006 International conducted a computer search to determine the extent of the suspect population.

- 12/14/2006 International declares a safety recall.
- (7) *PROGRAM TO REMEDY DEFECT [Part 573.6 (c)(8)]*
- All suspect vehicles will have their existing cab entry/egress grab handles replaced with the newly designed handle.
 - All suspect vehicles will also undergo an inspection of the upper attachment point to determine if they require further repair.
 - If any cracking of the handle's upper attachment point is observed, a metal patch will be affixed to the a-pillar in addition to the newly designed handle.
 - If damage to the handle's upper attachment point cannot be repaired by the metal patch, a new a-pillar inner panel will be installed in addition to the newly designed handle.
- (8) *PLAN FOR REIMBURSEMENT [Part 573.6 (c)(8)(i)]*
- None of the vehicles in this recall fall outside the warranty period; therefore, our plan for reimbursement of pre-notification remedies, on file and dated 2/6/2005 does not apply and instructions will not be included in the customer notification.
- (9) *SCHEDULE FOR RECALL NOTIFICATION [Part 573.6 (c)(8)(i)]*
- Notify International Dealers by: January 19, 2007
 - Notify International Customers by: January 26, 2007
- (10) *INTERNATIONAL RECALL NUMBER [Part 573.6 (c)(11)]*
- 06511 (NHTSA number not assigned yet)

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall on (260) 461-1890.

Very truly yours,



R. L. Van Laar

Compliance Manager

INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AND ENGINE CORPORATION