



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

*July 25, 2007*

NASSER ZAMANI  
MANAGER, COMPLIANCE  
AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
FREIGHTLINER, LLC  
4747 N. CHANNEL AVENUE  
PORTLAND OR 97217-7699

NVS-215dgl  
07V-316

Subject: REAR SUSPENSION CENTER CASTING/TUFTRAC

Dear MR. ZAMANI:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

FREIGHTLINER/BUSINESS CLASS M2/2007-2008  
FREIGHTLINER/COLUMBIA/2007-2008  
FREIGHTLINER/FLD120 MILITARY/2007-2008  
FREIGHTLINER/FLD120SD/2007-2008  
STERLING/A-LINE/2007-2008  
STERLING/ACTERRA/2007-2008  
WESTERN STAR/4900/2007-2008

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 07V-316

**Mfg's Report Date:** July 5, 2007

**Components:** SUSPENSION: REAR

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,200

**Summary:**

ON CERTAIN TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH TUFTRAC REAR SUSPENSIONS, THE CENTER CASTING BRACKETS MAY BE OUT OF SPECIFICATION. AN OUT OF SQUARE CASTING MAY HAVE UNACCEPTABLE STRESS IN THE BRACKET WHEN IT IS INSTALLED AND MAY CAUSE IT TO CRACK IN SERVICE.

**Consequence:**

THE DRIVE AXLE MAY NOT BE HELD IN POSITION IF A CRACKED BRACKET FRACTURES COMPLETELY. THIS WILL AFFECT VEHICLE CONTROL AND MAY CAUSE A CRASH WITHOUT WARNING.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND CASTINGS THAT ARE OUT OF SPECIFICATION WILL BE REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 24, 2007. OWNERS MAY CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712.

**Notes:**

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-502. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

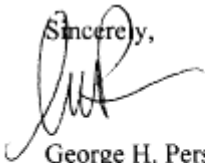
Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [Patricia.wallace@dot.gov](mailto:Patricia.wallace@dot.gov), [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement