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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

07V-009
(3 PAGES)

Timothy Blubaugh

Director

Government Relations Office

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December 21, 2006

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-489, Sterling 360 Vacuum Hose

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 1,340, Sterling 360 vehicles manufactured January 2006 through September 2006 with a potentially defective vacuum hose.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail#70023150000414054400



A DaimlerChrysler Company

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

December 21, 2006

(c)(1) Manufacturer: Mitsubishi FUSO Truck and Bus Corp.
Kanribu Gijutsu-keikaku
Kaihatsu Honbu
10 Okura-cho Nakahara-ku
211-8522 Kawasaki-shi Kanagawa, Japan

Brand Name Owner: Freightliner LLC
(Importer) P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, OR 97208
(503) 745-5219

Designated Agent: Mitsubishi FUSO Truck of America, Inc.
2015 Center Square Road
Logan Twp., NJ 08085
(856) 467-4500

Brand: Sterling

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Sterling 360

Model Years affected: 2007

Manufacture Dates: January 11, 2006 through September 4, 2006

Basis for determining population: All Sterling 360 manufactured prior to September 2, 2006. Defective vacuum hoses are identified by a "white" marking.

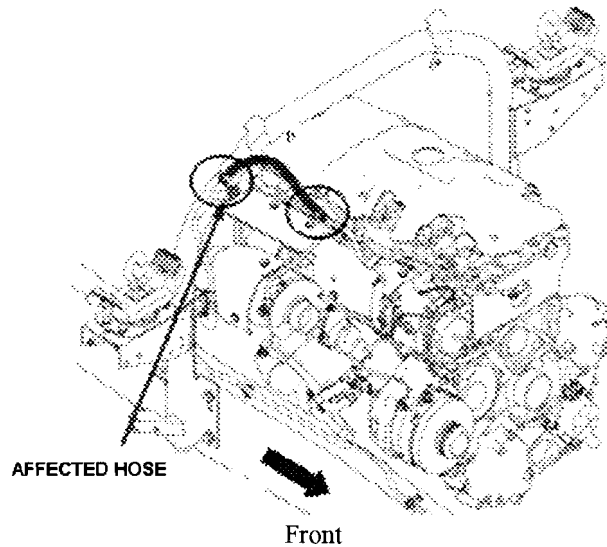
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not applicable

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 1,340

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: The vacuum hose may have been manufactured with insufficient wall thickness allowing the hose to collapse during normal vehicle operation. Collapse of the vacuum hose could reduce brake booster effectiveness.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Reduced brake booster effectiveness could result in increased vehicle stopping distance and potentially lead to a vehicle crash or personal injury.



(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: Following a review of warranty data and product quality reports for vehicles similar to the Sterling 360, Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp. conducted an investigation and determined that a potential defect existed in a vacuum hose on these vehicles. On December 13, 2006 Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corp. notified Freightliner LLC that a potential defect related to product safety existed on Sterling 360 vehicles.

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

(c)(8) Remedial program: The vacuum hose on affected vehicles will be replaced. Repairs will be performed by Sterling dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Sterling to do their own warranty repairs. Dealer notification will be completed February 22, 2007.

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 22, 2007.

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- 489