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March 21, 2007

07V-169
(2 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-494,
Four Piece Spindle Nut Adjustment with Non-preset Front Hubs**

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 200 Freightliner Business Class M2, Century, and Columbia truck-tractors manufactured June 2005 to December 2006 with incorrectly set front wheel bearing adjustment.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail#70023150000414054585

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

March 21, 2007

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

Brands: Freightliner Trucks

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

Model(s) affected: Business Class M2, Century, Columbia

Model Years affected: 2006, 2007

Manufacture Dates: June 2005 to December 2006

Basis for determining population: Vehicles with front axles assembled by Meritor June 2005 to December 2006 at Meritor's York axle assembly facility with 4-piece spindle nuts and non-preset hubs. Meritor checked their production records and identified vehicle serial numbers with incorrect bearing adjustment.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

ArvinMeritor, Inc.
801 Railroad Avenue
York, SC 29745

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** 200

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 100%

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** The front spindle nut may be over-tightened causing preload on the front wheel bearings which may lead to premature bearing wear.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: If rapid bearing wear is allowed to progress, the front wheel assembly may separate from the vehicle and cause a vehicle crash without prior warning.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** ArvinMeritor determined bearing adjustment was being done incorrectly at York on front axles with 4-piece spindle nuts with non-preset hubs. The wheel bearings were installed with excessive preload using the preset hub installation procedure. Meritor initiated corrective action and additional endplay inspection 12/17/06.

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

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs. Dealer notification will be completed May 18, 2007. The front hub installation will be inspected for correct bearing adjustment. If the bearing adjustment is incorrect, the front wheel bearings will be replaced.

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 May 18, 2007.

Reimbursement Plan: All prior repairs have been completed under warranty.

(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-494