



07V-234
(2 pages)

Nasser Zamani
Manager
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

07V-234
2007-05-22
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May 22, 2007

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-497, Front Brake Line Chafe

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 431, Freightliner Custom Chassis, FS-65 school bus chassis and FB-65 shuttle bus chassis manufactured between August 11, 2005 and July 3, 2006 with a potential defect in the installation of the right front hydraulic brake line.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nasser Zamani".

Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7002 3150 0004 1405 0990

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

May 22, 2007

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

Brands: Freightliner Custom Chassis

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: FS-65 School Bus Chassis and FB-65 Shuttle Bus Chassis

Model Years affected: 2006 and 2007

Manufacture Dates: August 11, 2005 through July 3, 2006

Basis for determining population: Chassis manufactured with Caterpillar C7 engines and hydraulic brake line part number A12-21572-000

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not Applicable

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 431

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 23%

(c)(5) Description of the defect: The right front brake line on affected vehicles may have been improperly secured allowing the brake line to contact engine coolant plumbing components.
49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Continued contact between the brake line and engine coolant plumbing could lead to a loss of brake fluid and reduced brake performance potentially resulting in a vehicle crash without warning.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: Based on reports received from the field, Freightliner Custom Chassis inspected 120 FS-65 chassis and determined the right front brake lines were potentially improperly secured

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

(c)(8) Remedial program: The right front brake line on affected units will be inspected to ensure they are properly secured. Brake lines with signs of continued contact with engine plumbing components will be replaced. Repairs will be performed by Freightliner and Thomas Bus dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner and Thomas Bus to do their own warranty repairs. Estimated dealer notification is July 20, 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 July 20, 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-497