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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

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July 23, 2007

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

07V-333
(3 pages)

Re: Defect Information Report FL-507, St. Thomas Axilok Nut Damage

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 1,158, Sterling, A-Line, Acterra, and L-Line vehicles manufactured April 2, 2007 through June 20, 2007 with potentially damaged Axilok rear wheel spindle nuts.

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#

7004 2890 0004 1202 1314

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

July 23, 2007

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

Brands: Sterling

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

Model(s) affected: A-Line, Acterra, and L-Line

Model Years affected: 2007 & 2008

Manufacture Dates: April 2, 2007 through June 20, 2007

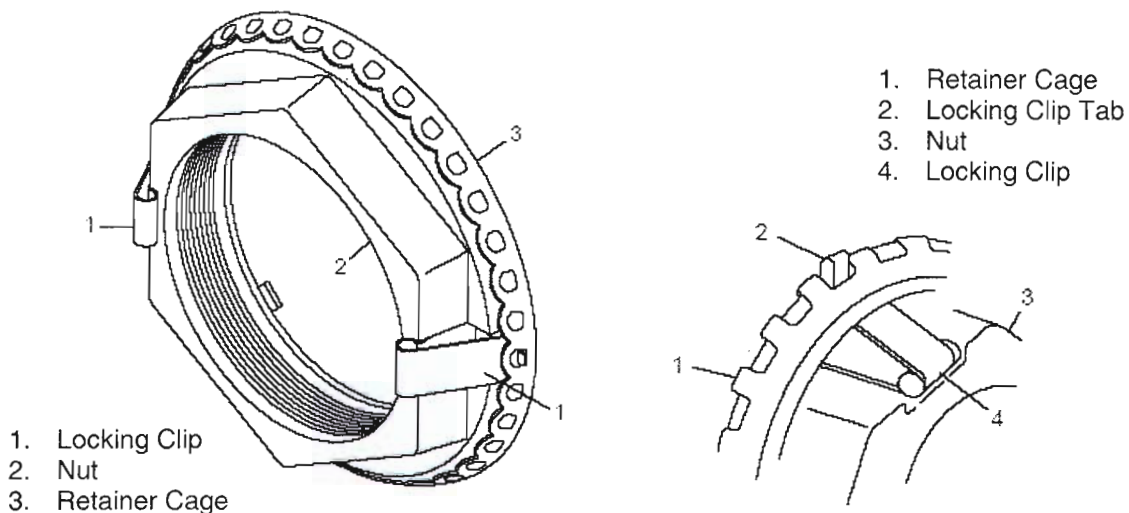
Basis for determining population: All vehicles built at St. Thomas truck manufacturing facility April 2, 2007 through June 20, 2007 with Axilok rear wheel spindle nuts.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not Applicable

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 1,158

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 40%

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** Improper installation procedures potentially damaged one or both locking clip tabs of the Axilok rear wheel spindle nut. Damage to the locking clip tabs reduces the nut's ability to resist rotation potentially allowing the nut to back off and the dual wheel set to become separated from the vehicle.



Axilok Spindle Nut

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: If the rear wheels become separated from the vehicle, the vehicle may become difficult to control leading to a crash without prior warning.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: On June 19, 2007 the Freightliner's St Thomas truck manufacturing facility identified that Axilok rear wheel spindle nuts were being damaged during the installation process. It was determined that the damage was the result of significant personnel changes at the manufacturing facility on April 2, 2007. Corrective actions were implemented on June 20, 2007.

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

(c)(8) Remedial program: Potentially affected vehicles will be inspected for damage to the Axilok rear wheel spindle nuts. Damaged nuts will be replaced. Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs. Estimated dealer notification will be completed by August 15, 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 August 17, 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-507