



Nasser Zamani
Manager
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

Freightliner LLC
4747 N. Channel Ave
Portland, OR 97217-7699
503-745-6910 Phone
503-745-5544 Fax
NasserZamani@Freightliner.com

July 3, 2007

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

07V-357
(2 pages)

Re: Defect Information Report FL-505, TRW P2 Steering Column Tilt Plate Bolts

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 42,000 Freightliner Century ST, Columbia and Coronado vehicles manufactured February 2006 to June 2007 with a defect in the upper steering column assembly.

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#

RECEIVED

2007 AUG 13 A 10:35

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

July 2, 2007

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

Brands: Freightliner

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Century ST, Columbia, Coronado

Model Years affected: 2007, 2008

Manufacture Dates: February 2006 to June 2007

Basis for determining population: Century ST, Columbia, and Coronado trucks manufactured with a TRW Global adjustable upper steering column.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

TRW Automotive
P.O. Box 60
800 Heath Street
Lafayette, IN 47904

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 42,000

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: The two upper tilt plate bolts may loosen with use and fall out. These fasteners hold the upper column assembly in place. The steering column pivot may fracture if the bolts are missing when an excessive force is applied to the steering wheel.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Upper steering columns missing two upper tilt plate bolts may fracture at the steering column pivot bracket. A steering column with both pivots fractured will be loose and not hold the steering wheel in position. Loss of steering wheel position may cause the steering to respond differently than expected. If this condition is ignored, a crash may occur.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: In mid-May 2007, a fleet customer reported an upper steering column assembly fractured at the pivot when a dispatcher instructed the driver to continue driving the truck after noticing vibration in the steering wheel. Inspection found the upper tilt plate bracket bolts were missing on the passenger side of the column. TRW and Freightliner initiated an investigation. Additional vehicles in the fleet were inspected and loose or missing bolts were found on other trucks. TRW was able to duplicate a condition that would cause the fasteners to loosen.

(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. Owners will be notified approximately August 24, 2007. Freightliner and TRW are validating proposed repairs.

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 24, 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-505