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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

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August 23, 2007

07V-394
(2 pages)

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

Re: Defect Information Report FL-511, FS-65 Steering Pinch Bolt

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 4,850, Freightliner Custom Chassis, FS-65 and FB-65 chassis manufactured January 1, 2005 through August 31, 2005 with a potential defect in the installation of the steering shaft pinch bolt.

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# 7002 3150 0004 1405 1041

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

August 23, 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 & FB-65 Chassis

Model Years affected: 2005 & 2006

Manufacture Dates: January 1, 2005 through August 31, 2005

Basis for determining population: All FS / FB-65 chassis manufactured within the affected date range.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not Applicable

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 4,850

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 1% or less

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** Potential improper pinch bolt installation may result in decoupling of the steering shaft and a loss of steering.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Decoupling of the steering shaft and a loss of steering may result in a vehicle crash.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** September 1, 2005 - additional QA measures put in place to ensure proper installation of pinch bolts on C2 and FS-65 chassis.
September 27, 2005 - Freightliner received a report of a pinch bolt on a school bus built on a FS-65 chassis falling out and hitting the driver in the foot. The steering shaft ultimately decoupled during a parking lot maneuver allowing the steering wheel to free-wheel.
December 8, 2006 – Freightliner received a second report of a pinch bolt related loss of steering on a school bus built on a FS-65 chassis.

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

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Potentially affected vehicles will be inspected to ensure that the steering shaft pinch bolts are properly installed. Improperly installed pinch bolts will be torqued to the correct specification. 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 date – October 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 October 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-511