



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

December 14, 2007

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

07V-598
(5 pages)

Re: Defect Information Report FL-520, Caterpillar EPA07 C15 ARD Extension Pipe

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 50 Freightliner Columbia and Century ST manufactured with Caterpillar C15 engines which may contain a defect in the ARD extension pipe.

Attached are Freightliner's Defect Information Report and the Caterpillar Defect Information Report..

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Nasser Zamani

RECEIVED
2007 DEC. - 28 AM 9:30
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure

Certified Mail# 7004 2890 0004 1202 0966



Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

December 14, 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: Columbia, Century ST

Model Years affected: 2008

Manufacture Dates: September 2006 to November 2007

Basis for determining population: Freightliner Columbia and Century ST manufactured with Caterpillar EPA07 C15 engines. Caterpillar supplied a list of affected engine serial numbers. Freightliner will use production records to identify the vehicles.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Caterpillar Inc.
100 N. E. Adams
Peoria, IL 61629-7150

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 250

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** See attached Defect Information Report from Caterpillar Inc.

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** Caterpillar has submitted a Part 573 Defect Information Report to NHTSA to recall certain EPA-07 C15 engines for a defect in the Aftertreatment Regeneration Device extension pipe. A crack or hole may develop in the pipe in use and flame may escape during a regeneration of the Diesel Particulate Filter. See attached Defect Information Report from Caterpillar Inc.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: See attached Defect Information Report from Caterpillar Inc.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** See attached Defect Information Report from Caterpillar Inc. Freightliner received a copy of the Caterpillar Defect Information Report November 28, 2007.

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

(c)(8) **Remedial program:** Caterpillar will notify vehicle owners and administer this recall campaign. See attached Defect Information Report from Caterpillar Inc.

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Caterpillar will notify vehicle owners and administer this recall campaign.

Reimbursement Plan: Caterpillar will notify vehicle owners and administer this recall campaign

(c)(9) **Information for tire recalls:** not applicable

(c)(10) **Communications sent to dealers and owners:** Caterpillar will notify vehicle owners and administer this recall campaign.

(c)(11) **Copy of proposed owner notification letter:** Caterpillar will notify vehicle owners and administer this recall campaign.

(c)(12) **Manufacturer's campaign number:** FL-520



Caterpillar Inc.
100 NE Adams Street
Peoria, Illinois 61629-7150

November 28, 2007
CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Dan Smith
Associate Administrator
Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Smith,

In accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and the procedure prescribed in 49 CFR 573, attached is our notification of a safety defect that may exist with the Aftertreatment Regeneration Device Extension Pipes used on certain Caterpillar 2007 C15 Diesel Engines.

Please contact me if there are additional requirements regarding this notification.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Lane".

Thomas S. Lane
Engine Product Safety & Compliance Manager
Regulations & Product Compliance

Phone (309) 675-6496
Fax (309) 636-2911

TSLane
Rev00 - 12/13/2007

- 1) MANUFACTURER
Caterpillar Inc.
100 N.E. Adams St.
Peoria, IL. 61629-7150
- 2) COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION
Model No.: 2007 Model Year C15 Diesel Engines produced by Caterpillar Inc.
Serial No. Prefixes: SDP
Manufacturing Ship Dates: September 7, 2006 to July 1, 2007
Component Description: Aftertreatment Regeneration Device (ARD) Extension Pipes used on certain 6 cylinder, 15L turbocharged and air-to-air aftercooled diesel engines of 305 - 625 Horsepower.
- 3) NUMBER OF ENGINES POTENTIALLY CONTAINING DEFECT
307 engines.
- 4) ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF ENGINES CONTAINING POTENTIAL DEFECT
100% of the engine population identified in 3.
- 5) DEFECT DESCRIPTION
The extension pipes attached to the Aftertreatment Regeneration Device (ARD) may develop a crack or hole and heat and flame may escape during a regeneration of the Diesel Particulate Filter, which may result in a fire hazard.
- 6) PRINCIPAL EVENTS THAT WERE THE BASIS FOR MAKING RECALL DETERMINATION
 - a) On November 15, 2007 Caterpillar became aware of a field failure, which resulted in a noise and floorboard heat during regeneration. No fire was experienced by the driver. The Caterpillar dealer subsequently identified a hole in the extension pipe.
 - b) Based on this failure and subsequent analysis, Caterpillar determined that some extension pipes may have incorrect material on the end sections and a groove in the attachment flange. Also, there is another extension pipe part number that has not proven to be durable under certain conditions. Three extension pipe part numbers are involved and these are all used in Freightliner chassis.
 - c) On November 27, 2007 Caterpillar decided to declare a Safety Defect and remedy the engines with a Safety Recall.

7) PROGRAM TO REMEDY DEFECT

- a) To alert the vehicle owner, Caterpillar will immediately notify customers and recommend they take their vehicle out of service until the extension pipes can be inspected.
- b) To remedy the defect, Caterpillar will then issue the Safety Recall using a Safety Product Improvement Program (the Caterpillar process used) to replace the ARD body, extension pipe (if necessary) and upgrade the software (if necessary), with customer notification from Caterpillar.
- c) Steve Payne at Freightliner has been verbally notified. Tim Blubaugh will be sent this 573 Defect Report. His contact information is shown below.

Mr. Timothy Blubaugh
Director, Governmental Technical Affairs
Freightliner LLC
4747 N. Channel Ave., P.O. Box 3849
Portland, OR 97208-3849
Ph. (503) 735-8682
timothyblubaugh@freightliner.com