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Date: September, 18, 2007

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 – Supplemental Report No. 01
07V-289, FL-503, DAC Steer Column missing welds**

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information and copies of documents to be distributed to dealers and purchasers.

- (c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 25,643**
- (c) (8) Communications sent to dealers: August 24, 2007
Communications sent to owners: August 30, 2007**
- (c) (10) Copies of Communications sent to owners and dealers are attached.**

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Enclosure

Certified Mail# 7004 2890 0004 1202 1178

Recall Campaign

August 2007
FL503A
NHTSA #07V-289

Subject: Douglas Autotech Steering Column Welds

Models Affected: Specific Freightliner Argosy, Century S/T, Columbia, and Coronado vehicles and Freightliner Custom Chassis FS65 school bus chassis (Thomas Built Buses Conventional FS65) manufactured between October 23, 2004, and March 21, 2006, with Douglas Autotech steering columns.

General Information

Freightliner LLC, on behalf of its Freightliner Trucks Division and its wholly owned subsidiary, Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on the vehicles mentioned above.

There are approximately 30,000 vehicles involved in this campaign.

Certain steering columns may have been manufactured without two welds. Columns with missing welds may fatigue and fracture, allowing the steering wheel to progressively move out of its normal operating position, causing a change in steering. If this condition is ignored, a possible vehicle crash may occur.

Steering columns will be inspected and any that are missing the two welds will be replaced. It is expected that less than 1 percent of steering columns, if any, will require replacement.

Additional Repairs

Dealers must complete all outstanding recall and field service campaigns prior to the sale or delivery of a vehicle. A Dealer will be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns before sale or delivery of a vehicle.

Owners may be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns within a reasonable time after receiving notification.

Work Instructions

Please refer to the attached work instructions. Prior to performing the campaign, check the vehicle for a completion sticker (Form WAR260).

Replacement Parts

Given the limited need for replacement parts (if any), formal kits will not be used for this campaign. Any steering column replacements require authorization before a steering column may be included on a claim. See the Work Instructions for more information.

If our records show your dealership has ordered any vehicles involved in campaign number FL503A, a list of the customers and vehicle identification numbers will be available on AccessFreightliner.com. Please refer to this list when ordering parts for this recall.

Removed Parts

Please follow Warranty Failed Parts Tracking shipping instructions for the disposition of all removed parts.

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Labor Allowance

Table 1 - Labor Allowance

Campaign Number	Procedure	Time Allowed (hours)	SRT Code	Damage Code
FL503A	Inspect steering column welds	0.3	996-0721A	000-Inspected
	Inspect steering column welds and replace steering column (Authorization is required prior to replacing a steering column.)	1.3	996-0721B	000-Modifiedx

Table 1

IMPORTANT: When the recall has been completed, locate the base completion label in the appropriate location on the vehicle, and attach the red completion sticker provided in the recall kit (Form WAR260). If the vehicle does not have a base completion label, clean a spot on the appropriate location of the vehicle and first attach the base completion label (Form WAR259). If a recall kit is not required or there is no completion sticker in the kit, write the recall number on a blank sticker and attach it to the base completion label.

Claims for Credit

You will be reimbursed for your parts, labor, and handling by submitting your claim through the Warranty system within 30 days of completing this campaign. Please reference the following information in QuickClaim®:

- Claim type is **Recall**.
- In the FTL Authorization field, enter the campaign number and appropriate condition code (**FL503A**).
- In the Primary Failed Part Number field, enter **25-FL503-000**.
- **Given the limited need for replacement parts (if any), formal kits will not be used for this campaign.** Any steering column replacements require authorization before a steering column may be included on a claim. See the Work Instructions for more information.
- In the Labor field, first enter the appropriate SRT from the Labor Allowance Table. For administrative time, enter SRT 939-0010A for 0.3 hours.

IMPORTANT: ServicePro® must be viewed prior to performing the recall to ensure the vehicle is involved and the campaign has not been previously completed. Also, check for a completion sticker prior to beginning work.

Contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, Web inquiry at AccessFreightliner.com / Support / Submit an Inquiry, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) 385-4357, after normal business hours, if you have any questions or need additional information.

The letter notifying vehicle owners is included for your reference.

Please note that the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended (Title 49, United States Code, Chapter 301), requires the owner's vehicle(s) be corrected within a reasonable time after parts are available to you. The Act states that failure to repair a vehicle within 60 days after tender for repair shall be prima facie evidence of an unreasonable time. However, circumstances of a particular situation may reduce the 60 day period. Failure to repair a vehicle within a reasonable time can result in either the obligation to (a) replace the vehicle with an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle, without charge, or (b) refund the purchase price in full, less a reasonable allowance for depreciation. The Act further prohibits dealers from selling a vehicle unless all outstanding recalls are performed. Also, any lessor is required to send a copy of the recall notification to the lessee.

Recall Campaign

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Copy of Letter to Owner

Subject: Douglas Autotech Steering Column Welds

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. This notice is also sent in accordance with the Canadian Motor Vehicles Safety Act.

Freightliner LLC, on behalf of its Freightliner Trucks Division and its wholly owned subsidiary, Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Freightliner Century S/T, Columbia, and Coronado vehicles and Freightliner Custom Chassis FS65 school bus chassis (Thomas Built Buses Conventional FS65) manufactured between October 23, 2004, and March 21, 2006, with Douglas Autotech steering columns.

Certain steering columns may have been manufactured without two welds. Columns with missing welds may fatigue and fracture, allowing the steering wheel to progressively move out of its normal operating position, causing a change in steering. If this condition is ignored, a possible vehicle crash may occur.

Steering columns will be inspected and any that are missing the two welds will be replaced.

Contact your authorized dealer to arrange to have your vehicle(s) inspected. To locate a dealer, search online at www.FreightlinerTrucks.com or contact the Warranty Campaigns Department for assistance.

When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number **FL503A**. Once kit(s) are received at the dealership, the Recall will take approximately 45 minutes and will be performed at no charge to you.

IMPORTANT: When the Recall has been completed, please ensure that a label has been affixed to your vehicle referencing **FL503A**.

If you do not own the vehicle that corresponds to the identification number(s) which appears on the Recall Notification, please return the notification to the Warranty Campaigns Department with any information you can furnish that will assist us in locating the present owner. If you have leased this vehicle, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to the lessee within 10 days.

If you are not able to have the defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, please contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, e-mail address WarrantyCampaigns@freightliner.com, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours. You may also submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or to <http://www.safercar.gov>. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may submit a complaint to Transport Canada, ASFAD, Place de Ville Tower C, 330 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5, or phone (800) 333-0510.

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause but feel certain you understand our interest in motor vehicle safety.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

Recall Campaign

August 2007
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NHTSA #07V-289

Work Instructions

Subject: Douglas Autotech Steering Column Welds

Models Affected: Specific Freightliner Century S/T, Columbia, and Coronado vehicles and Freightliner Custom Chassis FS65 school bus chassis (Thomas Built Buses Conventional FS65) manufactured between October 23, 2004, and March 21, 2006, with Douglas Autotech steering columns.

IMPORTANT: Given the limited need for replacement parts, less than 1 percent (if any), formal kits will not be used for this campaign. Any steering column replacements require authorization before a steering column may be included on a claim. See the Work Instructions below for more information.

Steering Column Inspection

1. Check the base label (Form WAR259) for a completion sticker for FL503 (Form WAR260) indicating this work has been done. On trucks, the base label is usually located on the passenger-side door about 12 inches (30 cm) below the door latch. On school buses, the base label is usually located over the driver's window. If a completion sticker is present, no further work is needed. If there is no completion sticker, go to the next step.
2. Park the vehicle on a level surface. Shut down the engine, set the parking brake, and chock the tires.
3. Remove the dash knee bolster.
4. Remove the fasteners that hold the back upper steering-column cover to the the steering column, then remove the cover. **Fig. 2**
5. Examine the the column for welds that secure the upper column shaft tube. See **Fig. 1**.

If the welds are OK, clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259), write the Recall number, FL503, on a blank, red completion sticker (Form WAR260), and attach it to the base label.

If the welds are missing or cracked, the column needs to be replaced. Contact the Warranty Campaigns Department for authorization. See the instructions in "Steering Column Replacement."

Steering Column Replacement

1. Take digital photos clearly showing the missing or damaged welds.
2. Submit an inquiry through www.AccessFreightliner.com to the Warranty Campaigns Department, including the Recall number, vehicle serial number, and the need to replace a steering column. E-mail your digital photos to: WarrantyCampaigns@Freightliner.com. In the subject line, include the Recall number, inquiry ticket number, and vehicle serial number.

IMPORTANT: Do not replace a steering column until authorization is received. Columns replaced without authorization will not be paid on Recall claims.

3. Make sure the vehicle is parked, with the tires pointed straight ahead. Do not turn the steering wheel at any time during this procedure.
4. Remove the steering column covers and knee bolster. See **Fig. 2**.
5. Remove and discard the pinch bolt and nut from the upper end yoke, then remove the upper end yoke from the steering column shaft.

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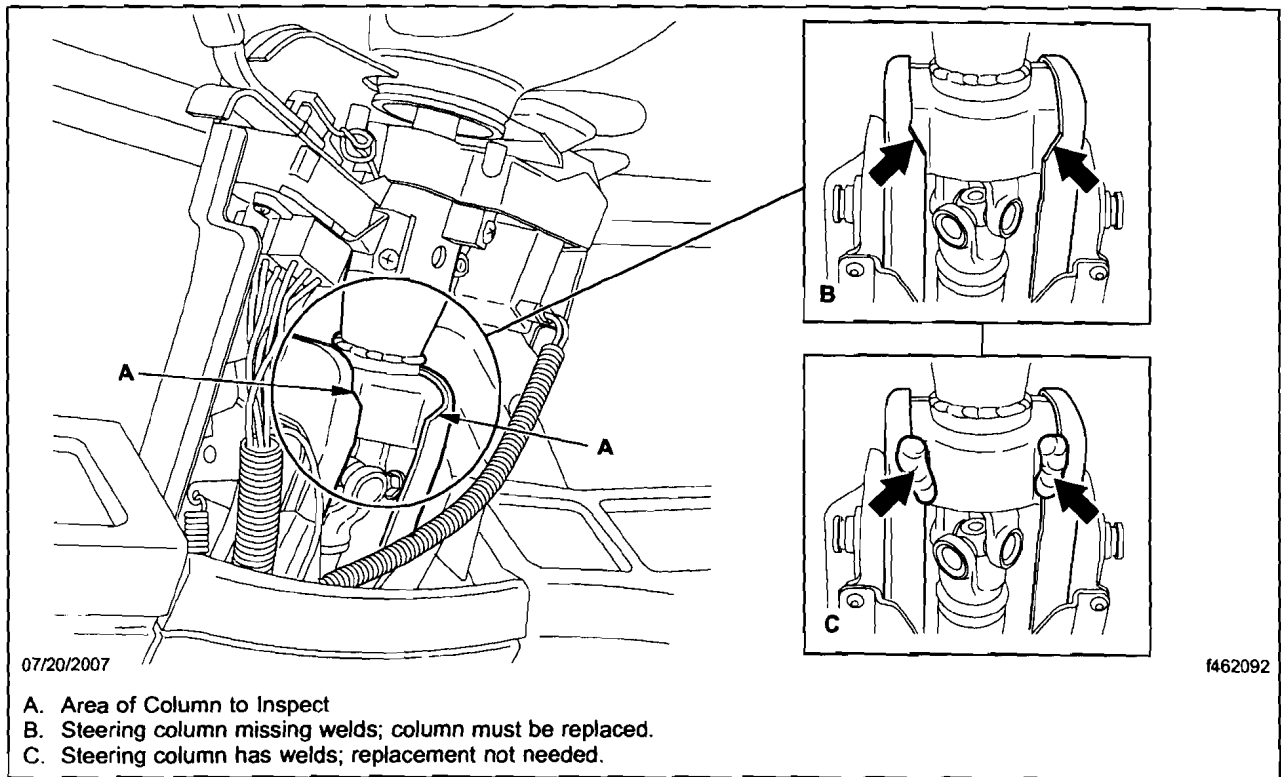


Fig. 1, Inspection of Column for Welds

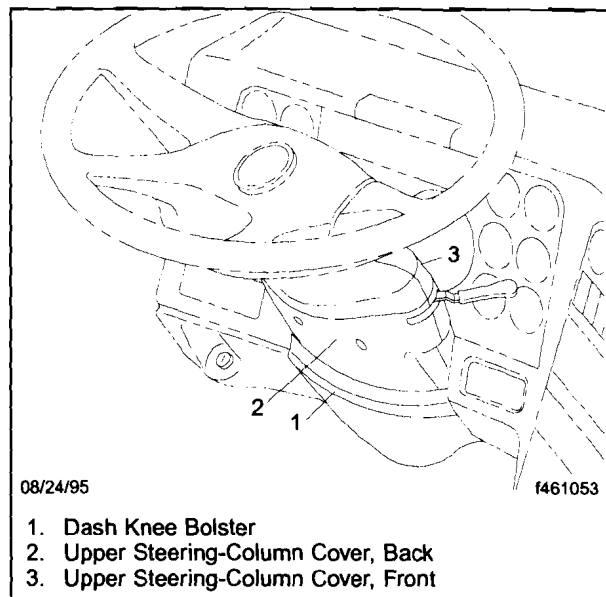


Fig. 2, Tilt Steering Column, Left-Hand Drive Shown

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6. If the steering wheel is not equipped with an air bag:
 - 6.1 Pry under the outermost ring of the steering wheel horn button using a small screwdriver. Lift the horn button from the steering wheel hub, then disconnect the wire terminals at the horn button.
 - 6.2 Without turning the steering wheel, remove the wheel nut. Using a steering wheel puller, remove the wheel from the shaft.

WARNING

For vehicles with air bags, wait two minutes after disconnecting the batteries to allow the internal components to discharge. Failure to allow the components to discharge could cause the air bag to deploy, resulting in severe bodily injury or death.

Undeployed air bags can be dangerous and are capable of deploying at any time. Follow the safety guidelines and handling instructions in the applicable vehicle workshop manual. Failure to observe safety and handling information could cause the unintentional deployment of the air bag, which could result in severe injury or death.

7. If the steering wheel is equipped with an air bag:
 - 7.1 Disconnect the batteries and wait two minutes before disconnecting any airbag circuits.
 - 7.2 Deactivate the airbag by disconnecting the SRS connector from the clockspring.
 - 7.3 Remove the T30 Torx-head fasteners underneath the steering wheel. These fasteners hold the air bag module to the steering wheel.
 - 7.4 Carefully lift the air bag module from the steering wheel, disconnect the air bag connector (and the horn switch connector if equipped) from the air bag, and then remove the air bag module.
 - 7.5 Without turning the steering wheel, remove the wheel nut. Using a steering wheel puller, remove the wheel from the shaft.
 - 7.6 Tape the upper and lower portions of the clockspring together to prevent the clockspring from turning.
8. Drain the air system.
9. Remove the air lines to the column-mounted trailer brake valve, if equipped.
10. Disconnect the harness plug from the turn-signal switch.
11. If equipped, disconnect the airbag harness from the column.
12. Disconnect the air line that is attached to the air-operated cylinder.
13. Remove the nuts and washers that attach the steering column to the mounting bracket and remove the steering column assembly from the vehicle. See **Fig. 3**.
14. Position the new steering column on the steering column mounting bracket. See **Fig. 3**. Install the nuts and washers, and tighten the nuts 26 lbf-ft (35 N·m).
15. Connect the air line to the air-operated cylinder.
16. Slide the upper end yoke onto the column shaft, then install a new pinch bolt. Before installing the nut, make sure the pinch bolt is centered in the steering column shaft notch. The pinch bolt is centered if it can slip in and out of the end yoke with ease. Install a new nut. Tighten the nut to one of the following torque values:
 - 55 to 65 lbf-ft (75 to 88 N·m) for a 7/16–20 pinch bolt
 - 30 to 35 lbf-ft (41 to 47 N·m) for an M10 x 1.25 pinch bolt
17. Apply torque seal, OGP F900WHITE, to the exposed bolt threads and to the nut.

18. Connect the turn-signal switch to the harness plug.

NOTE: Make sure there is slack in the turn signal harness. This allows the turn signal switch assembly to move with the tilt column assembly.

19. Connect the air brake hoses, if equipped. Insert the horn ground wire through the bracket.

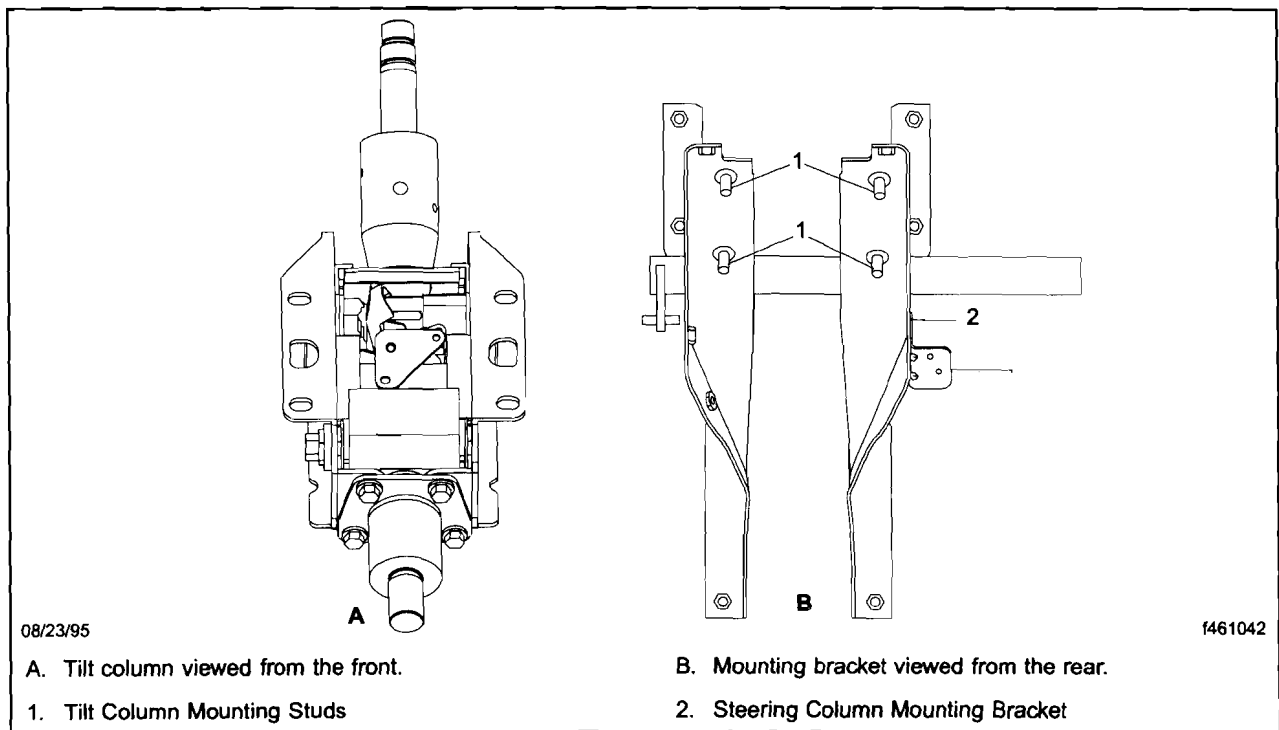


Fig. 3, Tilt Steering Column and Mounting Bracket

NOTE: Before installing the steering wheel, make sure the front tires are pointed straight ahead, and that the steering gear is centered.

20. If the steering wheel is not equipped with an air bag:

- 20.1 Install the steering wheel. The steering wheel should be within ± 10 degrees of center as shown in Fig. 4.
- 20.2 Insert the horn ground wires (from the center of the wheel tube shaft) through the center of the wheel nut. Install the wheel nut, and tighten it 55 to 65 lbf-ft (75 to 88 N-m).
- 20.3 Connect the ground wire terminals to the horn button. With the steering wheel in the straightahead position, push the horn button into place in the steering wheel hub.

21. If the steering wheel is equipped with an air bag:

- 21.1 Pull the air bag connector from the steering column through the cutout above the center hole on the steering wheel.
- 21.2 Remove the tape from the clockspring, align the tab on the clockspring with the cutout below the center hole on the steering wheel, and place the steering wheel on the steering column. Make sure that the steering wheel is within ± 10 degrees of center as shown in Fig. 4. Install the wheel nut and tighten 55 to 65 lbf-ft (75 to 88 N-m).

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- 21.3 Connect the air bag connector to the air bag module and carefully set the air bag module on the steering wheel.
- 21.4 Attach the air bag module to the steering wheel using T30 Torx-head fasteners.
- 21.5 Connect the SRS connector to the clockspring to enable the airbag.

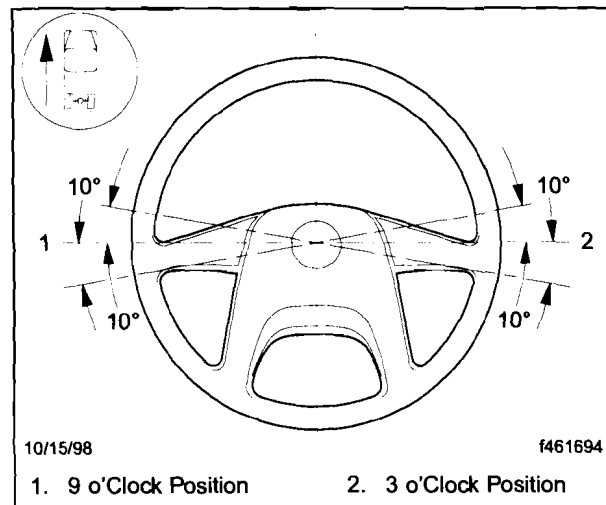


Fig. 4, Steering Wheel Centered

22. Install the dash knee bolster and position the steering column cover panels on the front and back of the column. Both panels have fittings that should snap into the column. Install two fasteners and attach the two panels together. See Fig. 2.
23. Connect the batteries.
24. Charge the air system.
25. Make sure that the steering column assembly operates and adjusts smoothly.
26. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259), write the Recall number, FL503, on a blank, red completion sticker (Form WAR260), and attach it to the base label.