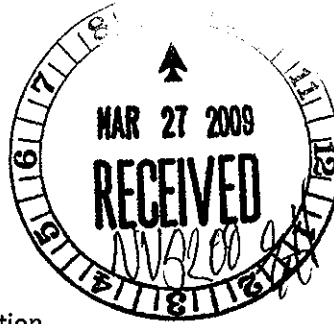


# DAIMLER



Daimler Trucks North America  
Nasser Zamani  
Senior Manager  
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

March 19, 2009

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. 2  
07V-289, FL-503, DAC Steer Column Missing Welds  
Owner Renotification**

Mr. Smith

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Daimler Trucks North America LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information and copies of documents distributed to purchasers and dealers. 3,509 owners were renotified on November 18, 2008. Dealers were advised of owner renotification November 12, 2008. Copies of communications sent to owners and dealers are attached.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nasser Zamani'.

Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA  
Enclosure  
Certified Mail# 7004 2890 0004 1202 1758

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC  
4747 N. Channel Avenue  
Portland OR 97217-7699  
503-745-6910 Phone  
503-745-5544 Fax  
Nasser.Zamani@Daimler.com

# Daimler Trucks North America LLC

Daimler Trucks North America LLC  
P.O. Box 4090  
Portland, OR 97208-4090  
800.547.0712 Phone  
503.745.9009 Fax

November 2008  
FL503A  
NHTSA #07V-289  
REMINDER NOTICE

## 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.

**Our records indicate that your vehicle(s) has not yet had this recall performed. Please make arrangements to have this repair done as soon as possible. If it has been completed, please disregard this letter.**

Contact your authorized dealer to arrange to have your vehicle(s) inspected. To locate a dealer, search online at [www.FreightlinerTrucks.com](http://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 a subsequent stage manufacturer, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to your distributors and retail outlets within five working 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 [DTNA.Warranty.Campaigns@Daimler.com](mailto:DTNA.Warranty.Campaigns@Daimler.com), or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours. You may also wish to 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 wish to notify 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

**ATTENTION: Dealer Principal, Warranty Manager, Service Manager, Parts Manager**  
 Freightliner Dealers – U.S. and Canada  
 Sterling and Western Star Dealers – U.S. and Canada  
 FCCC Dealers – U.S. and Canada  
 Thomas Built Bus Dealers – U.S. and Canada  
 Direct Warranty Customers – U.S. and Canada  
 Travel Centers of America

Daimler Trucks North America LLC

**WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT**  
 P.O. Box 4090 800-547-0712  
 Portland, Oregon 97208-4090 FAX 503-745-9009

If you have questions about this Letter, please submit your inquiry on the Web at:  
[AccessFreightliner.com / Support / Submit an Inquiry](http://AccessFreightliner.com/Support/SubmitanInquiry)

REF #: ICI08-016

Effective: 11/12/08

Release: 11/15/08

## SUBJECT: Recall Reminder Notices

Reminder Notices mailed to owners on approximately November 12, 2008, for the following campaigns:

- FL421A FCCC FS65 Ground Straps
- FL455A FCCC FS/FB65 Front Hydraulic Brake Lines
- FL462A Western Star Fuel Line Routing
- FL467A-F AAC Front Axle I-Beams
- FL479A FCCC MT45/55 Brake Light Switches
- FL481AB School Bus Battery Starter Cable Routing
- FL483A FCCC Front Axle Tie Rod Thread Engagement
- FL489A Sterling 360 Vacuum Hoses
- FL494A Front Axle Spindle Nut Adjustment
- FL497A FCCC FS/FB65 Brake and Coolant Line Interference
- FL499A-C Dana Corporation Drive Axle Housings
- FL503A Douglas Autotech Steering Column Welds
- FL505A TRW Steering Columns
- FL507A-C Axilok Wheel Bearing Adjusting Nuts
- FL508A DAVCO Fuel-Water Separator Preheater Thermoswitches
- FL511A FCCC FS/FB65 Steering Pinch Bolts

There are approximately 27,000 vehicles involved. You can determine how your dealership may be affected by viewing your list of the involved vehicles ordered by your dealership and the campaign bulletins on [AccessFreightliner.com](http://AccessFreightliner.com).

If you have questions or need further information, contact the Warranty Campaigns Department by submitting an inquiry through [www.AccessFreightliner.com / Support / My Tickets and Submit an Inquiry](http://www.AccessFreightliner.com/Support/MyTicketsandSubmitanInquiry) or calling (800) 547-0712 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday.

*The information contained in this letter supercedes and supplements any related policies and procedures in any previously released bulletins, the Warranty Manual, and/or previously released letters. Failure to read or distribute this letter will not exempt addressees from compliance with the information contained herein.*