



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 24, 2008

MR. STAN R. GORNICK, P. ENG.
MANAGER, COMPLIANCE
AMERICAN LAFRANCE, LLC
1090 NEWTON WAY
SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483-7430

NVS-215paw
08V-609

SUBJECT: VEHICLE CAB HYDRAULIC LIFT SYSTEM

DEAR MR. GORNICK:

This letter serves to acknowledge American LaFrance, LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

AMERICAN LAFRANCE/CONDOR/2000-2007

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-609

Mfg's Report Date: November 14, 2008

Components: STRUCTURE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,251

Summary:

AMERICAN LAFRANCE IS RECALLING 1,251 MY 2000-2007 CONDOR TRUCKS. THE BRACKET THAT ATTACHES THE HYDRAULIC CYLINDER TO THE CAB USED TO RAISE AND LOWER THE VEHICLE CAB FOR MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES CAN FAIL.

Consequence:

IF THE BRACKET FAILS DUE TO THE FORCES ENCOUNTERED WHEN THE CAB PASSES THE BREAK OVER POINT AND REACHES THE END OF THE CYLINDER TRAVEL, THE CAB WILL CONTINUE ITS FORWARD MOVEMENT UNTIL IT REACHES THE GROUND. IF THE BRACKET FAILS DURING THE LIFTING SEGMENT OF RAISING THE CAB, THE CAB WILL FALL UNRESTRAINED BACK DOWN ONTO THE CHASSIS, INCREASING THE RISK OF INJURY.

Remedy:

AMERICAN LAFRANCE WILL REPAIR THESE VEHICLES FREE OF CHARGE. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED AN OWNER NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT AMERICAN LAFRANCE AT 1-888-253-8725.

Notes:

AMERICAN LAFRANCE RECALL NO. ALF-0308. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at Patricia.wallace@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person", with a stylized flourish at the end.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement