

# DAIMLER



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

January 9, 2009

09V-024  
(3 Pages)

Dan Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington D.C. 20590

## Re: Defect Information Report FL-545, SAMs Water Intrusion

Mr. Smith

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Daimler Trucks North America LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 13,000 Freightliner Cascadia vehicles equipped with Chassis and Cab Signal-detect and Activation Modules (SAMs), manufactured December 2006 through December 17, 2008.

Attached is Daimler Trucks North America's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Enclosure

Certified Mail# 7003226000134037087

RECEIVED  
2009 JANUARY 22 - 9:00 AM  
OFFICE OF RECALL  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

A Daimler Company

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## Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

January 9, 2009

**(c)(1) Manufacturer:** Daimler Trucks North America LLC  
P.O. BOX 3849  
Portland, Oregon 97208  
(503) 745-5219

**Brands:** Freightliner Trucks

**(c)(2) Vehicles identification:**

**Model(s) affected:** Cascadia

**Model Years affected:** 2007, 2008, 2009

**Manufacture Dates:** December 2006 through December 17, 2008

**Basis for determining population:** All Cascadia manufactured with Chassis and Cab Signal-detect and Activation Modules (SAMs)

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:** not applicable

**(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 13,000

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

**(c)(5) Description of the defect:** Potential corrosion damage due to water intrusion into the SAMs may cause electrical shorts or intermittent operation of tail lamps, stop lamps, side marker lamps and trailer lighting. In some cases, starter motors have activated without a key on.

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** Under certain conditions, intermittent operation of required lamps may provide an inaccurate signal to other drivers and a crash may occur. Under certain conditions when the driver is not present, unintended activation of the starter may cause a vehicle with a manual transmission to move and a crash may occur. An electrical short in the Cab SAM or Chassis SAM may cause melting in the SAM or other electrical components which may cause a vehicle fire.

**(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:** In July, 2008, field reports began to indicate problems with electrical functions on certain items with signal inputs and control outputs from the SAMs. After investigation, DTNA Engineering, Service and Quality groups determined water intrusion in the SAMs was possible on some vehicles and could cause these events.

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

**(c)(8) (i) Remedial program:** Vehicles will be inspected for indication of water intrusion or damage to the SAMs. SAMs will be replaced as required and modifications will be completed to control possible sources of water intrusion. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Daimler Trucks North America to do their own warranty repairs

**Reimbursement Plan:** Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

**(ii) Estimated Owner and Dealer Notification Date:** Customer notification will be by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected. This will be completed approximately March 13, 2009.

Dealer notification will be completed approximately March 13, 2009.

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**(c)(9) Information for tire recalls:** Not Applicable

**(c)(10) Communications sent to manufacturers, dealers and owners:** Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

**(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number:** FL-545