

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

July 20, 2009

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-554, TRW I-GEN 3 Steering Shaft

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 1291 Freightliner Business Class M2, Thomas Built Bus C2, and Freightliner Custom Chassis S2 vehicles manufactured April 21, 2009 through July 2, 2009 and equipped with TRW I-GEN 3 steering shafts with a defect in the steering shaft which may reduce the ultimate torsional and axial load capacity of the shaft.

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# 7002 3150 0004 1405 4615

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2009 SEP 15 A 11:37
OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
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Portland OR 97217-7699
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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

Date: July 20, 2009

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

Brands: Freightliner, Thomas Built Bus, Freightliner Custom Chassis

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Freightliner Business Class M2, Thomas Built Bus C2, Freightliner Custom Chassis S2

Model Years affected: 2010

Manufacture Dates: April 21, 2009 through July 2, 2009

Basis for determining population: Vehicles built between April 21, 2009 and July 2, 2009 with TRW I-GEN 3 Steering Shafts produced between April 21, 2009 and May 26, 2009

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

TRW Automotive U.S. LLC
702 Lyons Rd
Portland, MI 48875

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 1884

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 1%

(c)(5) Description of the defect: TRW reported that a weld on certain TRW I-GEN 3 steering shafts that secures the spline tube to the intermediate tube may be mislocated (i.e., not fully over the seam created when the tubes are pressed together). The improperly located weld bead has the potential to reduce the ultimate torsional and axial load capacity of the joint below acceptable levels. The TRW NHTSA recall number is 09E-041.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: A failed steering shaft could cause a loss of vehicle control and a crash may occur.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: On June 26th, 2009 TRW informed Daimler Trucks North America of a defect in certain TRW I-GEN 3 steering shafts and their intent to file a DIR. All suspect vehicles that were at DTNA locations were inspected and repaired as needed.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: Not Applicable

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: The weld location on the steering shaft will be inspected with a check gauge. The steering shafts will be replaced if the weld is found to be mislocated.. 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 September 11, 2009.
Dealer notification will be completed approximately September 11, 2009.

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

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(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-554