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09V-357
(3 pages)



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

September 4, 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-557, Rack and Pinion Loose ITR

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 8882 Freightliner Cascadia, Century, and Columbia vehicles equipped with rack and pinion steering, manufactured 10/29/2004 through 07/03/2009 with a defect in the rack and pinion system that under certain conditions, the left hand inner tie rod end may loosen over time and if not corrected, separate from the rack. .

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

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Nasser Zamani
Nasser Zamani

RECEIVED
2009 SEP 16 A 4: 48
OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7006 3450 0000 3866 7614

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

Date: September 4, 2009

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

Brands: Freightliner

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

Model(s) affected: Cascadia, Columbia, Century

Model Years affected: 2005 through 2010

Manufacture Dates: 10/29/2004 through 07/03/2009

Basis for determining population: All vehicles with rack and pinion steering produced before 06/02/2009

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

ThyssenKrupp Presta SteerTec USA

1597 East Industrial Drive

Terre Haute, IN 47802

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 8,882

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 100%

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** Under certain conditions, the left hand inner tie rod end may loosen over time and if not corrected, potentially separate from the rack.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: A separated tie rod assembly will make the vehicle more difficult to control at higher speeds and a crash may occur

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:**

08/08/2008 – First warranty claim for loose LH inner tie rod end

11/10/2008 – First warranty claim for separated LH inner tie rod end

12/06/2008 – Daimler Trucks North America found a loose inner tie rod end on a test truck at the conclusion of durability testing

04/29/2009 – Daimler Trucks North America Product Validation duplicated the loose ITR on the test bench

06/02/2009 – ThyssenKrupp began adding Loctite to the inner tie rod joints

07/29/2009 – Daimler Trucks North America Product Validation reproduced the failure mode on a test truck using a modified steering rack.

(c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:**

(c)(8) (i) **Remedial program:** The left hand inner tie rod will be removed from the steering rack and will be inspected for damage. Damaged racks will be replaced. Undamaged racks will have the inner tie rod reinstalled with Loctite. 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

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be completed approximately November 3, 2009

Dealer notification will be completed approximately November 3, 2009

(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-557