

DAIMLER

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

October 29, 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

09V-428
(2 Pages)

Re: Defect Information Report 09C-5, EPA07 DD13 Grid Heater

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 1,628 Freightliner and Sterling vehicles manufactured October 31, 2008 through October 23, 2009, and equipped with EPA07 DD13 engines assembled with a grid heater which may short circuit and overheat potentially resulting in a fire in the engine compartment.

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# 7006 3450 0000 3866 7706

A Daimler Company

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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

October 29, 2009

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

Brands: Detroit Diesel Corporation, Freightliner, Sterling

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Freightliner: Cascadia, M2
Sterling: 9500

Model Years affected: 2009 through 2010

Manufacture Dates: October 31, 2008 through October 23, 2009

Basis for determining population: Vehicles equipped with DD13 EPA07 engines manufactured with grid heaters May 1, 2008 through October 23, 2009

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Detroit Diesel Corporation
C/o Daimler Trucks North America LLC

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 1,628

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: Increased internal grid heater resistance caused by improperly tightened screws may melt the solder on the grid heater circuit board leading to a short circuit.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: A short circuited grid heater could result in a vehicle fire and injury to vehicle occupants.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: Feb 2009 – first DD15 grid heater with thermal damage received. Five additional damaged units were received through April 15th. Continued investigation indicated DD13 engines potentially affected.

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

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: The engine control logic will be reprogrammed to provide cold weather starting without the need of a grid heater. Wiring to the grid heater will be removed. Future production engines will not be equipped with a grid heater. Repairs will be performed by Detroit Diesel Corporation (DDC) Authorized Repair Facilities and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by DDC to do their own warranty repairs
Reimbursement Plan: See Attached.

(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 December 18, 2009
Dealer notification was completed December 18, 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: 09C-5