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10V-053
(3 Pages)

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

February 19, 2010

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-572, Pitman Arm Installation

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 352 Freightliner Cascadia vehicles manufactured May 20, 2009 through January 29, 2010 at its Saltillo Mexico assembly plant and equipped with Sheppard HD94 steering gears with potentially improperly installed restraining washers.

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#

7003 2260 0001 3403 7163

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)

February 19, 2010

(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
Model Years affected: 2010
Manufacture Dates: May 20, 2009 through January 29, 2010

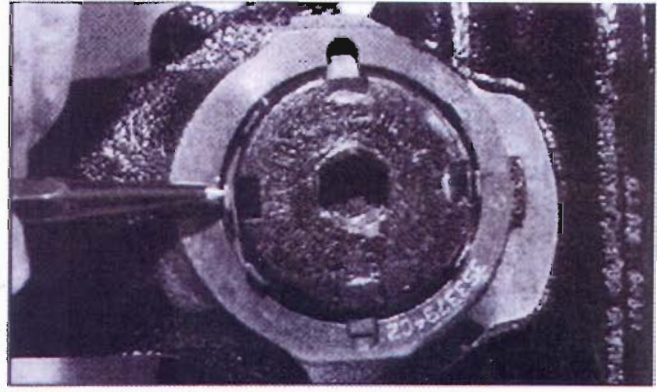
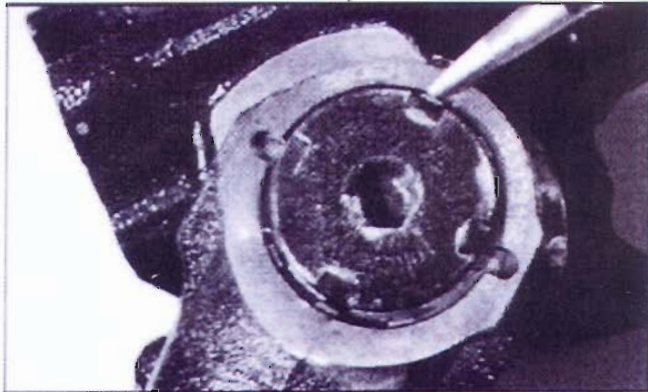
Basis for determining population: Cascadia vehicles assembled at the Saltillo truck plant with optional Sheppard HD94 steering gears from start of production at Saltillo to implementation of correct assembly procedures.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not Applicable

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 352

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: Restraining washer locking tabs may not have been seated into the pitman arm retainer notches during assembly at the Saltillo plant.



Restraining washer tabs shown aligned with notches in retainer prior to bending

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Incomplete installation of the pitman arm retaining mechanism may allow unthreading of the retainer, and in the worst case, disengagement of pitman arm from the steering box resulting in loss of steering and crash.

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- (c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** February 1, 2010, dealer discovered improperly installed restraining washers during pre-delivery vehicle inspection. February 2 – 11, 2010, installation procedures verified at all plants. Corrective action implemented at Saltillo plant.
- (c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** Not Applicable
- (c)(8) **(i) Remedial program:** Potentially affected vehicles will be inspected to insure pitman arm retainer is properly torqued and restraining washer is properly installed with locking tabs seated in notches of the retainer. 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 April 23, 2010
Dealer notification will be completed approximately April 23, 2010
- (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-572