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By Recall Mgt Div. at 11:40 am, Jun 14, 2010

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

June 10, 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-581, Western Star Idler Arm Spacer

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 4 Western Star 4900SA twin-steer vehicles manufactured December 21, 2001, through June 4, 2010, and equipped with a twin-steer idler arm spacer which may fail prematurely under severe steering applications.

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 0003 7727 0582

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
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Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

June 10, 2010

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

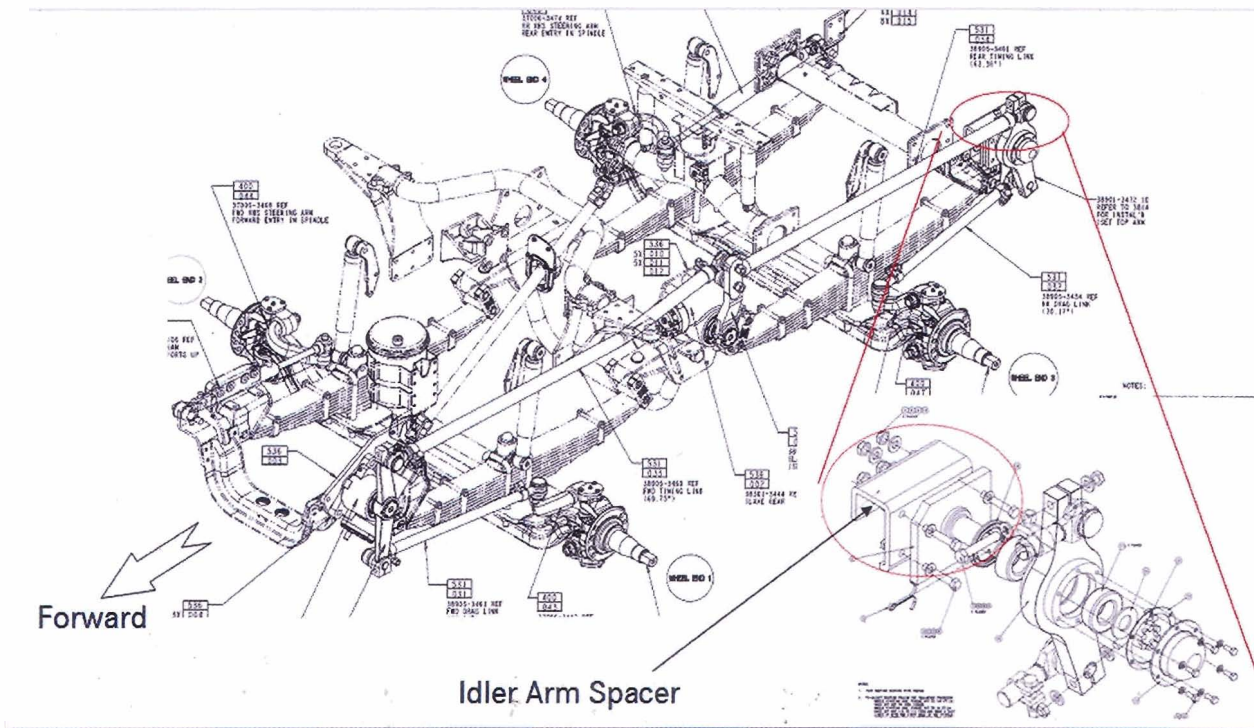
Brands: Western Star

(c)(2) **Vehicles identification:**
Model(s) affected: 4900 SA
Model Years affected: 2002 through 2011
Manufacture Dates: December 21, 2001, through June 4, 2010
Basis for determining population: Western Star model 4900SA vehicles equipped with two front steer axles and idler arm spacer part number 38302-3439
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: Not applicable

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 4

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 11%

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** The spacer used to connect the aft steer axle idler arm to the frame rail may develop cracks and eventually break under severe steering conditions allowing the idler arm to separate from the frame rail resulting in diminished steering control.



49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Diminished steering control may lead to crash.

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- (c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:** Isolated incidents involving cracked or broken brackets received in 2004 and 2006. DTNA opened an investigation in November 2009 based on customer reports of spacer failures on multiple vehicles. In June 2010 it was determined that the spacer bracket was not capable of withstanding severe loads applied in certain applications.
- (c)(7) **Noncompliance-test or other data:** Not applicable
- (c)(8) (i) **Remedial program:** The tubular shaped spacer bracket will be replaced with a solid spacer block. 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 August 21, 2010
Dealer and distributor notification will be completed approximately August 28, 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-581