

Recall Campaign

Daimler Trucks
North America LLC

May 2010
FL576A
NHTSA #10V-149

Copy of Letter to Owner Subject: Unimog Transverse-Control Arms

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. This notice is also sent in accordance with the Canadian Motor Vehicles Safety Act.

Daimler Trucks North America LLC, the agent of Daimler AG Unimog Division, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Unimog U500NA vehicles manufactured November 19, 2002, through January 23, 2007.

A weld connecting the transverse-control arm eye to the control arm tube may not be to specification, potentially allowing the eye to separate from the tube without warning under severe driving conditions. Unexpected separation may cause a loss of vehicle control and possible vehicle crash and personal injury.

The welds on front and rear suspension transverse-control arms will be inspected and improperly welded transverse-control arms will be replaced.

Parts are now available for authorized dealers to order. Contact your authorized Daimler Trucks North America dealer to arrange to have the recall performed. To locate a dealer, search online at www.FreightlinerTrucks.com or contact the Warranty Campaigns Department for assistance.

When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number **FL576A**. Please allow time for shipping should the inspection show your vehicle requires a replacement. Once parts are received at the dealership, the Recall will take between approximately half an hour and two hours, depending on the work needed, and will be performed at no charge to you.

IMPORTANT: When the Recall has been completed, please ensure that a label has been affixed to your vehicle referencing **FL576A**.

If you do not own the vehicle that corresponds to the identification number(s) which appears on the Recall Notification, please return the notification to the Warranty Campaigns Department with any information you can furnish that will assist us in locating the present owner. If you have leased this vehicle, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to the lessee within 10 days. If you are a subsequent stage manufacturer, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to your distributors and retail outlets within five working days. If you have paid to have this recall condition corrected prior to this notice, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement. Please see the reverse side of this notice for details.

If you are not able to have the defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, please contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, e-mail address DTNA.Warranty.Campaigns@Daimler.com, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or to <http://www.safercar.gov>. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may wish to notify Transport Canada, ASFAD, Place de Ville Tower C, 330 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5, or phone (800) 333-0510.

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause but feel certain you understand our interest in motor vehicle safety.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

Reimbursement to Customers for Repairs Performed Prior to Recall

If you have already **paid** to have this recall condition corrected you may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

Requests for reimbursement may include parts and labor. Reimbursement may be limited to the amount the repair would have cost if completed by an authorized Daimler Trucks North America LLC dealer. The following documentation must be presented to your dealer for consideration for reimbursement.

Please provide original or clear copies of all receipts, invoices, and repair orders that show:

- The name and address of the person who paid for the repair.
- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the vehicle that was repaired.
- What problem occurred, what repair was done, when the repair was done.
- Who repaired the vehicle.
- The total cost of the repair expense that is being claimed.
- Proof of payment for the repair (such as the front and back of a cancelled check or a credit card receipt).

Reimbursement will be made by check from your Daimler Trucks North America LLC dealer.

Please speak with your Daimler Trucks North America LLC authorized dealer concerning this matter.

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Work Instructions

Subject: Unimog Transverse-Control Arms

Models Affected: Specific Unimog U500NA vehicles manufactured
November 19, 2002, through January 23, 2007.

Weld Inspection

1. Check the base label (Form WAR259) for a completion sticker for FL576 (Form WAR260) indicating this work has been done. The base label is usually located on the passenger-side door about 12 inches (30 cm) below the door latch. If a completion sticker for this campaign is present, no further action is necessary. If a completion sticker for this campaign is not present, proceed to the next step.
2. Park the vehicle on a level surface, shift the transmission to neutral, shut down the engine, and set the parking brake. Chock the tires.
3. On both the front steering axle and the rear axle, clean and inspect the weld seams at the transition of the transverse-control arm tube to the bolt eyes. See Fig. 1.
4. If the transverse-control arm is spot welded to the bolt eyes or there are cracks present, replace the arm. Go to "Transverse-Control Arm Replacement." It is expected that 2 percent or fewer control arms will require replacement.

If the arm is **not** spot welded and **no** cracks are present, no further work is needed. Clean a spot on base label, write the recall number, FL576, on a blank red completion sticker, and attach it to the base label.

Transverse-Control Arm Replacement

IMPORTANT: Parts will be ordered from Unimog North America using the instructions under "Replacement Parts" on page 1.

1. Release the tension from the transverse-control arm that is to be replaced.
 - 1.1 Before replacing the front transverse-control arm, using the front implement plate, slowly raise the front of the vehicle to unload the front suspension.
 - 1.2 Before replacing the rear transverse-control arm, using the rear closing crossmember, slowly raise the rear of the vehicle to unload the rear suspension.

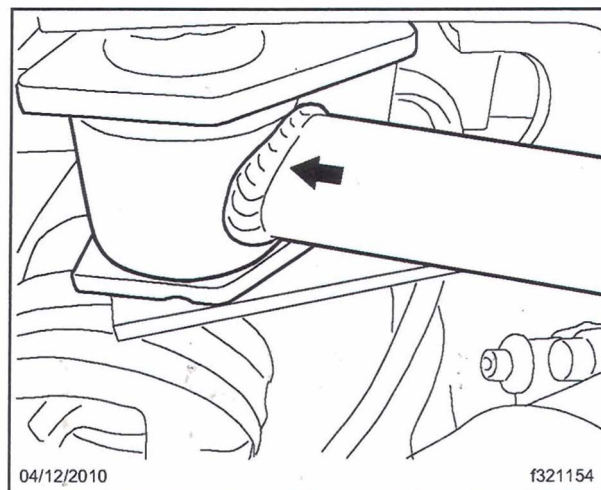


Fig. 1, Transverse-Control Arm Weld Area

2. Remove the bolt, locknut, and washer from the frame-end bolt eye. See Fig. 2 for the front steering axle. See Fig. 3 for the rear axle.

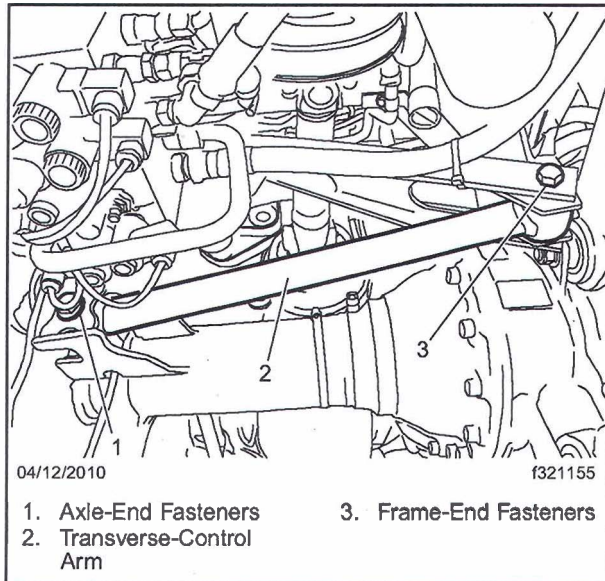


Fig. 2, Steering-Axle Transverse-Control Arm

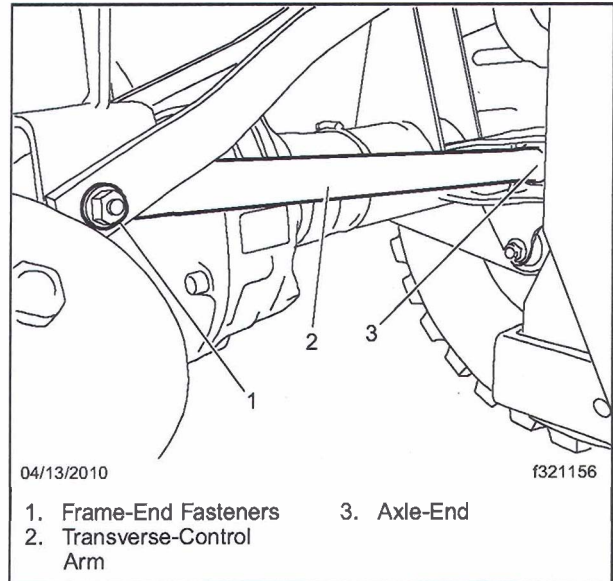


Fig. 3, Rear Axle Transverse-Control Arm

NOTE: On both axles, the axle-end bolt is attached with a weld nut.

3. Remove the bolt and lockwasher from the axle-end bolt eye.
4. Remove the transverse-control arm.
5. Apply Loctite 242 to the bolts, then install the new transverse-control arm.
6. Torque the bolts to 170 lbf-ft (230 N·m).
7. Lower the vehicle.
8. Clean a spot on base label, write the recall number, FL576, on a blank red completion sticker, and attach it to the base label.