

DAIMLER

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

January 28, 2011

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington D.C. 20590

**Re: Defect Information Report – Supplemental Report No. 4
10V-260, FL-581, Western Star 4900 Steering Idling Arm Spacers**

Mr. Smith,

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Daimler Trucks North America LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information and a copy of the representative document distributed to owners.

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

Owner notification: Started and Completed on January 26, 2011

(c) (10) A representative copy of communications sent to owners is attached.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
Attachment

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
4747 N. Channel Avenue
Portland OR 97217-7699
503-745-6910 Phone
503-745-5544 Fax
Nasser.Zamani@Daimler.com

Daimler Trucks North America LLC

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
P.O. Box 4090
Portland, OR 97208-4090
800.547.0712 Phone
503.745.9009 Fax

January 2011
FL581AB
NHTSA #10V-260

Subject: Western Star 4900 Steering Idler Arm Spacers

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, on behalf of its wholly owned subsidiary, Western Star Trucks Sales, Inc., has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Western Star 4900SA Twinsteer vehicles manufactured December 21, 2001, through June 4, 2010, with certain idler arm spacers.

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. This may result in diminished steering control, leading to a possible vehicle crash.

The tubular spacer will be replaced with a more robust cast spacer.

Parts are now available for authorized dealers to order. Please contact your authorized Daimler Trucks North America dealer in advance to arrange to have the Recall performed and to confirm that parts are available before taking your vehicle in for the Recall. Please note, advance arrangements are required. To locate a dealer, search online at www.Daimler-TrucksNorthAmerica.com or contact the Warranty Campaigns Department for assistance.

When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number **FL581AB**. Once kit(s) are received at the dealership, the Recall will take between three and four hours 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 **FL581**.

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.