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By Recall Management Division at 7:36 am, Apr 20, 2011

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

April 19, 2011

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-605, Gunite Automatic Slack Adjusters

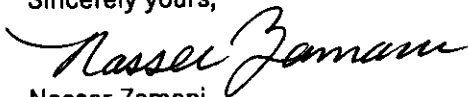
Mr. Smith

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 an undetermined number of Freightliner Cascadia, Columbia Glider Kit, Coronado, M2 and Western Star 4900 vehicles manufactured October 16, 2010 through March 9, 2011, and equipped with Gunite automatic slack adjusters with a flow notch in the handle of the slack adjuster.

Attached is Daimler Trucks North America's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Nasser Zamani

Cc: Amy Martin, Chief Counsel, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure
Certified Mail# 7006 3450 0000 3866 8123

A Daimler Company

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Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

April, 19, 2011

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

Brands: Freightliner, Western Star

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Freightliner Cascadia, Columbia Glider Kit, Coronado, M2
Western Star 4900

Model Years affected: 2011

Manufacture Dates: October 16, 2010 through March 9, 2011

Basis for determining population: Vehicles built October 16, 2010 through March 9, 2011 and equipped with Gunite Automatic Slack Adjusters manufactured October 15, 2010 through January 31, 2011

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Gunite Corporation
302 Peoples Avenue
Rockford, IL 61104

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: To Be Determined

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

(c)(5) Description of the defect: Gunite has reported "The nonconformance occurred in the "handle" portion of the slack adjuster housing during the casting operation. The dimensional characteristics of the area in question were not affected and contain adequate structural integrity, however, in certain cases the casting process resulted in a flow notch in the "handle" portion that reduced the effective cross section structural ("knitted") area. This condition occurred at a high load or stressed area of the housing." "In some instances, the nonconformance can cause inadequate structural integrity of the slack adjuster housing, which could cause the housing to break at the handle under normal operating loads." Reference NHTSA recall 11E-008.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: If the slack adjuster were to break, the wheel brake to which the slack adjuster is attached would no longer function, causing the vehicle to have reduced braking capacity and if mounted on the steer axle a possible pull to one side increasing the possibility of a crash.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events: On February 17, 2011, a Gunite automatic slack adjuster broke during final testing of a vehicle at a DTNA manufacturing plant. DTNA immediately contacted Gunite to determine the scope and severity of the issue. On March 9, 2011, Gunite provided DTNA with a notice of NHTSA recall 11E-008. DTNA considered the facts of the matter. The advisory committee reviewed the facts and recommended recall consideration to the senior management. DTNA decided to recall affected vehicles. DTNA will continue to identify the vehicles that were built with suspect Gunite automatic slack adjusters.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: N/A

(c)(8) (I) Remedial program: The automatic slack adjusters will be inspected to determine if they have a housing with a suspect lot code. If the housing is from a suspect lot, the slack adjuster will be replaced. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities.

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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 June 20, 2011

Dealer and distributor notification will be completed approximately June 13, 2011

(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-605