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11V-289
(3 Pages)

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

May 13, 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-608, Fontaine Ultra LT Fifth Wheel

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 2,281 Freightliner Cascadia, Coronado, and Business Class M2 vehicles manufactured April 7, 2010, through March 7, 2011, and equipped with a Fontaine Ultra LT fifth wheel.

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 0003 7727 0735

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

May 13, 2011

(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, Business Class M2, Coronado

Model Years affected: Business Class M2 and Coronado, 2011; Cascadia, 2011 and 2012

Manufacture Dates: April 7, 2010, through March 7, 2011

Basis for determining population: All units built with Fontaine Ultra LT fifth wheels manufactured prior to the January 10, 2011, change in production by Fontaine

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Fontaine Fifth Wheel NA
7574 Commerce Circle
Trussville, AL 35173
Attn: Steve Mann, 800-874-9780

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 2,281

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 100%

(c)(5) Description of the defect: During the coupling process on vehicles equipped with pre-modification Fontaine Ultra LT fifth wheels it is possible for the driver to partially close the fifth wheel lock, and if solely relying on a tug test (pull test), think that the fifth wheel lock is properly coupled to the trailer king pin when in fact it is not properly coupled. This can occur if the driver relies on the sound of the lock closing and a tug test, and fails to perform the required visual inspection of the fifth wheel coupling.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: If the driver fails to perform the required visual inspection and ensure the tractor is properly connected to the trailer, the trailer may become disengaged increasing the risk of a crash.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:

April 2010: DTNA began installing Fontaine Ultra LT fifth wheels in production.

December 2010: A customer reported that they had dropped several trailers on vehicles equipped with the Fontaine Ultra LT fifth wheel.

January 2011: Fontaine began assembling the Ultra LT fifth wheel with a revised lock bar

February 2011: Fontaine launched a product enhancement campaign to replace the lock bar in all Ultra LT fifth wheels built prior to the introduction of the new lock bar. As of May 3, 2011, 55% of the potentially affected vehicles in the field had been modified.

April 2011: NHTSA opened a Preliminary Evaluation to investigate the Fontaine Ultra LT fifth wheel.

May 2011: DTNA decided to initiate a safety campaign to modify vehicles equipped with the Fontaine Ultra LT fifth wheel.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: Not Applicable

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(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: Fontaine notified all affected owners in February 2011, and is in the process of retrofitting all affected vehicles. As of May 3, 2011, 55% of the vehicles had been modified, and service kits had been shipped to modify an additional 33% of the affected vehicles. Fontaine expects to have 100% of affected vehicles modified before the end of second quarter 2011. DTNA will continue to monitor Fontaine's progress, and if necessary, re-notify owners who have not had their affected vehicles modified. Modifications will be performed by Fontaine.
Reimbursement Plan: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(ii) Estimated Owner and Dealer Notification Date: If Fontaine is unsuccessful in modifying 100% of the vehicles by July 1, 2011, re-notification of owners who have not had their affected vehicles modified by that time will be completed approximately July 8, 2011. Customer notification will be by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

(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-608