

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

November 16, 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-618, Meritor Axle Weld Recall**

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 6 Western Star 4900 vehicles manufactured December 14, 2011 through January 26, 2011, and equipped with a Meritor axle with a defect in the Chalmers tower bracket weld.

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 8178

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## Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

November 16, 2011

**(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

**Model Years affected:** 2011

**Manufacture Dates:** December 14, 2010 through January 26, 2011

**Basis for determining population:** Meritor provided serial numbers for affected axles

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:**

Meritor, Inc  
2135 W Maple Rd.  
Troy, MI 48084  
800-535-5560

**(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 6

**(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** Meritor has determined that approximately 100% may exhibit the conditions described below.

**(c)(5) Description of the defect:** Meritor has recalled certain axle assemblies used in DTNA vehicles, NHTSA recall 11E-044. Meritor States "The weld that attaches a tower bracket to the housing in suspect assemblies may crack as a result of improper welding procedures. This may cause bracket detachment resulting in potential loss of vehicle control".

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** Detachment of the bracket may lead to a loss of vehicle control increasing the risk of a crash.

**(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:** On October 29, 2011, DTNA received notice from Meritor that they were recalling certain axle assemblies. DTNA immediately began an investigation to determine which, if any, DTNA vehicles were affected by the Meritor recall. On November 11, 2011 DTNA determined that a potential defect related to motor vehicle safety may exist in certain Western Star Vehicles.

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

**(c)(8) (i) Remedial program:** Affected axles will be inspected for cracks and the welds will be repaired when necessary. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Trucks North America authorized service facilities.

**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 January 17, 2012.

Dealer and distributor notification will be completed approximately January 17, 2012.

**(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.

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**(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-618**