



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 19, 2012

MR. NASSER ZAMANI
SENIOR MANGER COMPLIANCE
AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA
4747 N. CHANNEL AVENUE
PORTLAND, OR 97217-7699

NVS-215lrd
12V-266

SUBJECT: FRONT AXLE KNUCKLES

DEAR MR. ZAMANI:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Trucks North America's (DTNA) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

FREIGHTLINER/CASCADIA/2013
FREIGHTLINER/COLUMBIA/2013
FREIGHTLINER/CORONADO/2013
FREIGHTLINER/BUSINESS CLASS M2/2013
WESTERN STAR/4900/2013
FREIGHTLINER CUSTOM CHASSIS/XC CHASSIS/2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-266

Mfg's Report Date: June 11, 2012

Components: SUSPENSION: FRONT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 217

Summary:

DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA (DTNA) IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2013 FREIGHTLINER, WESTERN STAR, AND FREIGHTLINER CUSTOM CHASSIS TRUCKS MANUFACTURED FROM APRIL 18, 2012, THROUGH MAY 11, 2012, AND EQUIPPED WITH DETROIT AXLE-BRAND FRONT AXLE KNUCKLES. THE FRONT KNUCKLES ON THESE VEHICLES MAY HAVE A MACHINING ERROR IN THE WHEEL BEARING AREA WHICH MAY LEAD TO PREMATURE SPINDLE FAILURE.

Consequence:

IF THE SPINDLE FAILS, THE WHEEL MAY SEPARATE FROM THE KNUCKLE, RESULTING IN LOSS OF VEHICLE CONTROL, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DTNA WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND REPLACE THE AFFECTED COMPONENTS, FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON, OR BEFORE, AUGUST 11, 2012. OWNERS MAY CONTACT DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA TOLL FREE AT 1-800-547-0712.

Notes:

DAIMLER TRUCKS RECALL NO. FL-629. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Edison Thompson, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, by email at Edison.Thompson@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement