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12V-405  
3 Pages

Daimler Trucks North America

Nasser Zamani  
Senior Manager  
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

August 15, 2012

Nancy Lewis  
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-631, Perpendicular Air Tank Mounting Brackets**

Ms. Lewis,

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 1,663 Freightliner, Sterling, and Western Star vehicles manufactured July 7, 2008, through December 15, 2011, and equipped with a perpendicular air tank mounting bracket that may crack.

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# 7003 2260 0001 3404 2372

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC  
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## Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

August 15, 2012

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

**Brands:** Freightliner, Sterling, Western Star

**(c)(2) Vehicles identification:**

**Model(s) affected:** Freightliner 114SD, Business Class M2, Cascadia, Coronado  
Sterling 9500; Western Star 4700

**Model Years affected:** 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

**Manufacture Dates:** July 7, 2008, through December 15, 2011

**Basis for determining population:** All vehicles built with a specific perpendicular air tank mounting bracket.

**Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:** N/A

**(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 1,663

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

**(c)(5) Description of the defect:** Certain air tank mounting brackets may develop cracks under some conditions. If the cracks are not repaired, propagation of a crack may lead to the air tanks brackets separating from the frame rail. In the worst case scenario, air tanks may separate from the vehicle.

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:** Air tanks separating from the vehicle may lead to a loss of air in the brake system possibly leading to increased stopping distances. Air tanks that become separated from a moving vehicle may create a road debris hazard increasing the risk of a crash.

**(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:** In July and August 2011 DTNA received field reports indicating a certain air tank mounting bracket was cracking. In mid-August of 2011 DTNA began an investigation of the perpendicular air tank mounting brackets. DTNA did not find any reports of loss of air in the brake system or reports of air tanks falling off of a vehicle and becoming a road hazard. As a product improvement DTNA designed a more robust version of the bracket to meet customer expectations. That bracket became available for production at the end of August 2011. In early February 2012 NHTSA made an informal inquiry into air tank mounting brackets based on TREAD data supplied by DTNA. DTNA responded to the inquiry in late-February 2012. In late-June 2012 NHTSA opened PE 12-018 to investigate reports of cracked air tank mounting brackets. In mid-July NHTSA sent an IR for PE 12-018 to DTNA. On August 12, 2012 DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall on certain air tank mounting brackets.

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

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**(c)(8) (i) Remedial program:** The air tank mounting brackets will be replaced with a more robust bracket. 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 October 15, 2012.  
Dealer and distributor notification will be completed approximately October 15, 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.

**(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number:** FL-631