

DAIMLER

Daimler Trucks North America

Nasser Zamani
Senior Manager
Compliance and Regulatory
Affairs

October 22, 2012

Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215, Rm. W45-206)
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington D.C. 20590

**Re: Defect Information Report – Supplemental Report No. 1
12V-405, FL-631, Perpendicular Aluminum Air Tank Mounting Brackets
Interim Notification**

Ms. Lewis:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Daimler Trucks North America LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information and copies of documents distributed to dealers and purchasers.

- (c)(3) Owners of 1,669, vehicles were notified October 16, 2012.
- (c)(10) Copy of Communications sent to Owners and Dealers is attached.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Nasser Zamani

Cc: Amy Martin, CAL-OSHA
Enclosure

**Daimler Trucks
North America LLC**

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

Daimler Trucks North America LLC
P.O. Box 4090
Portland, OR 97208-4090
800.547.0712 Phone
503.745.9009 Fax

**October 2012
FL631
Interim Recall Notice
NHTSA # 12V-405**

Subject: Perpendicular Aluminum Air Tank Mounting Brackets

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Daimler Trucks North America LLC, on behalf of its Freightliner Trucks Division and wholly owned subsidiaries, Sterling Truck Corporation and Western Star Trucks Sales Inc, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Freightliner 114SD, Business Class M2, Cascadia, and Coronado vehicles; Sterling 9500 vehicles; and Western Star 4700 vehicles manufactured July 30, 2008, through December 15, 2011.

Certain perpendicular air tank mounting brackets may develop cracks under some conditions. Increasing size of the cracks may lead to air tank brackets separating from the frame rails which may lead to a loss of air in the air 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.

This is the first of two notices you will receive regarding this subject. This letter is to inform you of an upcoming Recall and provide important information regarding steps you may take in the interim. Daimler Trucks is currently developing a remedy and will notify you when it is available. *When you receive the second notice*, please contact your authorized Daimler Trucks North America dealer to schedule the Recall for your vehicle.

Before the remedy is available, there are steps you can take to reduce the risk of your vehicle developing this condition. As part of your daily pre-trip inspection, to inspect for cracks in the air tank mounting bracket(s). If no cracks are found, no action is needed until you receive the second notice. If cracks are present, please take your vehicle to an authorized Daimler Trucks North America location for an interim repair **(your vehicle still requires the final Recall remedy)**.

If you do not own the vehicle that corresponds to the identification number(s), which appears on the Recall Notice, please return the notice in the postage-paid envelope with any information you can furnish that will assist us in locating the present owner.

If you have questions about this Recall, please contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time Monday through Friday, e-mail address DTNA.Warranty.Campaigns@Daimler.com, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) 385-4357 after normal business hours. You may wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause but feel certain you understand our interest in motor vehicle safety.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

Customer Inspection

WARNING

A cracked air tank bracket may lead to the air tanks separating from the vehicle, which may cause loss of braking ability which may lead to property damage, personal injury, or death.

NOTE: Perpendicular mounted air tanks may be installed on either or both frame rails, and may have two sets on one side or the other.

Prior to operating the vehicle each day, inspect each air tank mounting bracket for evidence of cracks in the vicinity of the bracket-to-frame mounting bolts.

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface, shut down the engine, and set the parking brake. Chock the tires.
2. Inspect each air tank mounting bracket for evidence of cracks in the vicinity of the bracket-to-frame mounting bolts. See Fig. 1.

Peeling or chipped paint, and/or discoloration or staining on the aluminum bracket may indicate small, hard to see cracks.

If no cracks are found, no action is needed. Continue to inspect the brackets daily.

If there is any evidence of cracks, immediately (before putting the vehicle in service) take the vehicle to an authorized Daimler Trucks North America dealer for replacement with a steel bracket.

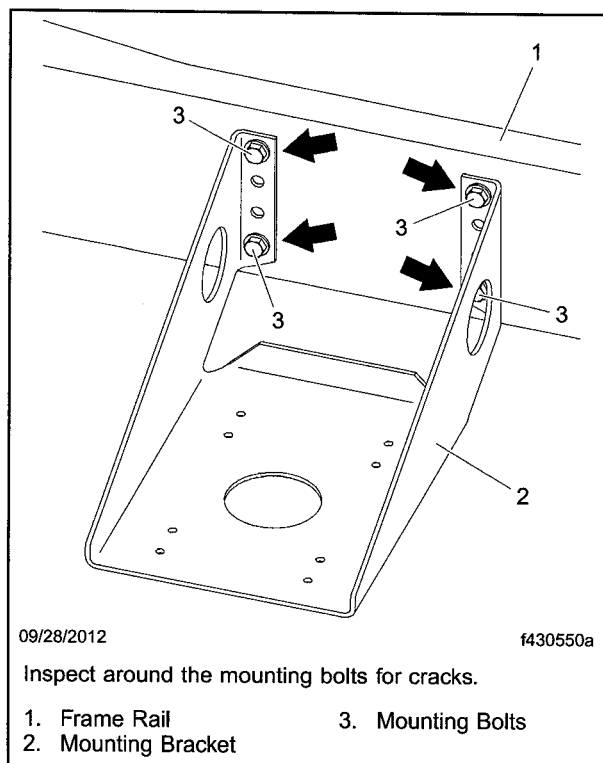


Fig. 1, Inspecting for Cracks

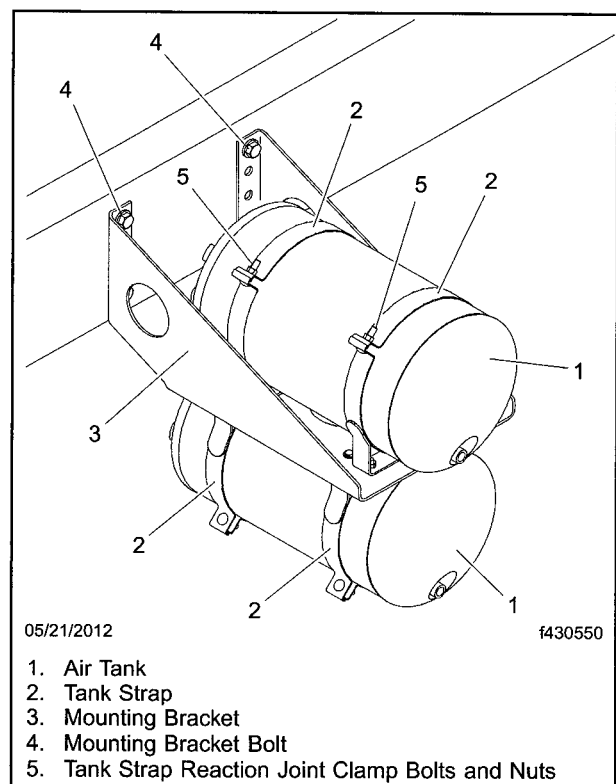


Fig. 2, Perpendicular Air Tank Installation