

Subject: Perpendicular Aluminum Air Tank Mounting Brackets

Models Affected: 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.

General Information

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 that relates to motor vehicle safety exists on the vehicles mentioned above. Until the final Recall remedy is available, this interim procedure may be performed, if needed, on eligible vehicles. **Vehicles that are not experiencing a failure do not need this procedure and it should not be performed.**

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.

To reduce the risk of experiencing this condition, customers have been advised to inspect air tank mounting brackets as part of the pre-trip inspection. If a mounting bracket is not cracked, there is no action needed. If a mounting bracket is cracked, customers are to take the vehicle to an authorized Daimler Trucks dealer for an interim repair. The interim repair is to replace the mounting bracket with a more robust bracket. **(Vehicles that have an interim repair also require the final remedy.)**

Work Instructions

Please refer to the attached work instructions. Before beginning work, confirm whether a vehicle is eligible for an interim Recall repair. Go to Warranty Support Center/Campaigns/Interim Recall Inquiry and enter the vehicle serial number and make.

Replacement Parts

Obtain parts for this interim Recall repair by ordering from your facing Parts Distribution Center.

Table 1 - Interim Repair Parts for FL631

Campaign Number	Part Description	Part Number	Qty.
FL631-01 (one bracket)	BRKT-11 IN AIR TANK	12-25241-000	1 ea.
FL631-02 (two brackets)			

Table 1

Removed Parts

Please follow Warranty Failed Parts Tracking shipping instructions for the disposition of all removed parts.

Recall Campaign

Daimler Trucks
North America LLC

October 2012

FL631

NHTSA #12V-405

Transport Canada #12-281

INTERIM RECALL BULLETIN

Labor Allowance

Table 2 - Labor Allowance

Campaign Number	Procedure	Time Allowed (hours)	SRT Code
FL631-01	Replace one bracket	0.7	996-0846A
FL631-02	Replace two brackets	1.3	996-0846B

Table 2

Claims for Credit

An interim Recall repair is performed only when a failure is present, do not perform the interim repair if there is no failure. You will be reimbursed for your parts, labor, and handling by submitting your claim through the Warranty system within 30 days of completing an interim Recall repair. Please reference the following information in Legacy/QuickClaim or in OWL, as appropriate for your location:

Claims in Legacy/QuickClaim

If a claim needs to be submitted via QuickClaim, submit a WSC inquiry for assistance. Since all dealers are now using OWL, this should be rare if needed at all.

To confirm whether a vehicle is eligible for an interim Recall repair before beginning work. Go to Warranty Support Center/Campaigns/Interim Recall Inquiry and enter the vehicle serial number and make.

Claims in OWL

- **Claims in OWL**

Claim Type	Request Type	OWL Interim Campaign Number	PFP	VMRS Code Cause Code
Recall	Payment	INT FL631-01 INT FL631-02	25-FL631-000	013-010-005 A1-Campaign

Table 3

- Claim type is **Recall** and Request type is **Payment**.
- In the Campaign field, enter **INT FL631-01** or **INT FL631-02**.
- Use the retrieve button to populate the claim. If needed, fill in any items not automatically included.
- If additional parts, labor, or other charges beyond what is outlined in this bulletin were needed, stop and submit as a Recall Pre-Approval Request.

IMPORTANT: Confirm whether a vehicle is eligible for an interim Recall repair before beginning work. Go to Warranty Support Center/Campaigns/Interim Recall Inquiry and enter the vehicle serial number and make.

Contact the Warranty Campaigns Department from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, via Web inquiry at AccessFreightliner.com / Support / My Tickets and Submit an Inquiry, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) 385-4357, after normal business hours, if you have any questions or need additional information.

The interim letter notifying vehicle owners is included for your reference.

Copy of Interim Notice to Owners

Subject: Perpendicular Aluminum Air Tank Mounting Brackets

For the Notice to U.S. Customers: This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

For the Notice to Canadian Customers: This notice is sent to you in accordance with the Canadian Motor Vehicles 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.

For the Notice to U.S. Customers: 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>.

For the Notice to Canadian Customers: 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.

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

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

Recall Campaign

Daimler Trucks
North America LLC

October 2012

FL631

NHTSA #12V-405

Transport Canada #12-281

INTERIM RECALL BULLETIN

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.

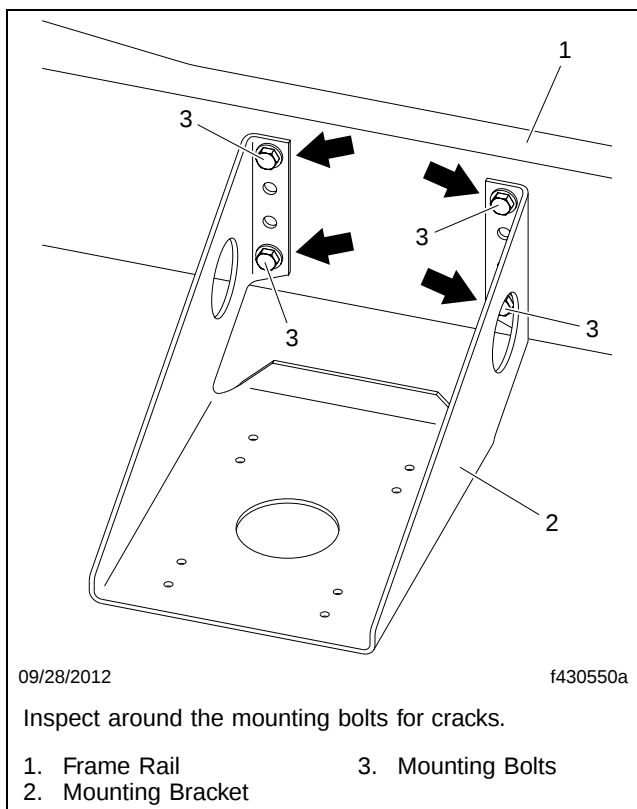


Fig. 1, Inspecting for Cracks

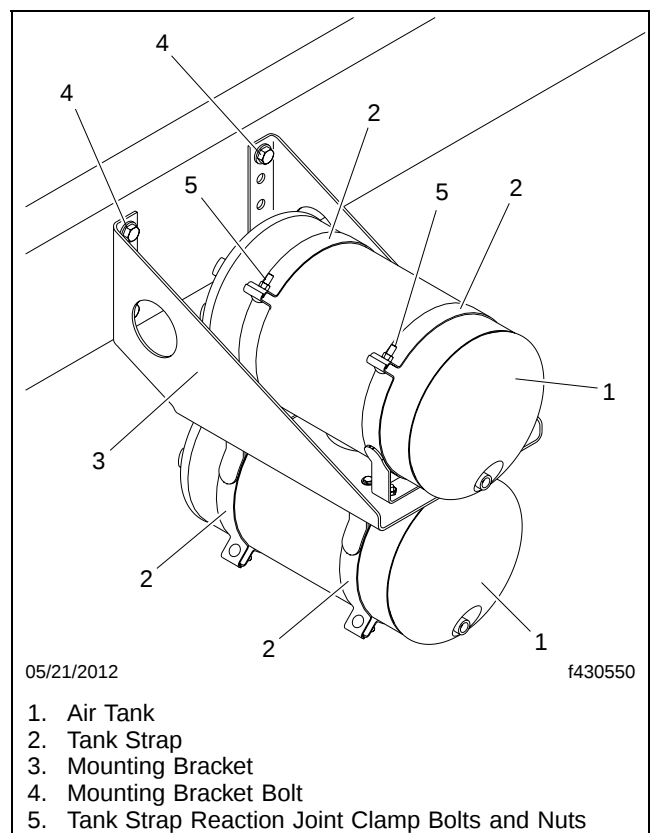


Fig. 2, Perpendicular Air Tank Installation

Interim Work Instructions

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IMPORTANT: Vehicles that are not experiencing a failure do not need this procedure and it should not be performed. Do not attach a completion sticker.

Safety Precautions

When working on or around air brake systems and components, observe the following precautions:

- Chock the tires and shut down the engine before working under the vehicle.
- Depleting air system pressure may cause the vehicle to roll. Keep hands away from brake chamber pushrods and slack adjusters; they will apply as air pressure drops.
- Never connect or disconnect a hose or line containing compressed air. It may whip as air escapes. Never remove a component or pipe plug before all system pressure has been released.
- When working with compressed air, always wear safety glasses. Never look into air jets or direct them at anyone.
- Never exceed recommended air pressure.
- Never attempt to disassemble a component prior to reading and understanding the recommended procedures. Some components contain powerful springs, and injury can result if not properly disassembled. Use the correct tools, and observe all precautions pertaining to use of those tools.
- Replacement hardware, tubing, hose, fittings, etc., should be the equivalent size, type, length, and strength of the original equipment. Make sure that when replacing tubing or hose, all of the original supports, clamps or suspending devices are installed or replaced.
- Replace devices with stripped threads or damaged parts. Repairs requiring machining should not be attempted.

Air Tank Mounting Bracket Replacement

Refer to **Fig. 2** for this procedure.

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface, shut down the engine, and set the parking brake. Securely chock the tires.
2. Drain the air from the air tanks.
3. Mark or tag all tank air lines, couplers, and valves for later assembly, then disconnect the components. Cap the exposed ports tightly to keep out contaminants.
4. Remove each air tank, as follows.
 - 4.1 Loosen the reaction joint clamp bolts.
 - 4.2 Remove the tank strap fasteners.
 - 4.3 Remove the air tank.

Recall Campaign

Daimler Trucks
North America LLC

October 2012

FL631

NHTSA #12V-405

Transport Canada #12-281

INTERIM RECALL BULLETIN

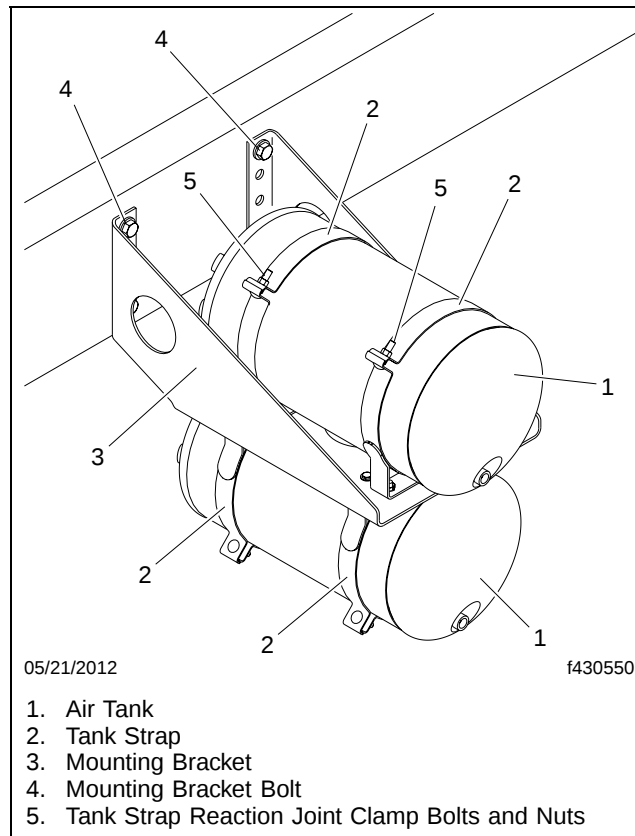


Fig. 2, Perpendicular Air Tank Installation

5. Remove the frame decking if needed, for access to the bracket mounting bolts.
6. If the vehicle batteries are located between the frame rails, raise the battery box to access the air tank mounting bracket fasteners, as follows.
 - 6.1 Remove the battery box cover.
 - 6.2 Remove the two batteries adjacent to the bracket.
 - 6.3 Remove the battery box fasteners on the side adjacent to the bracket.
 - 6.4 Raise the corner of the battery box to access the bracket fasteners.
7. Remove the aluminum air-tank mounting bracket from the frame rail.
8. Install the new steel air-tank mounting bracket on the frame rail. Tighten the mounting bolts and nuts 120 to 150 lbf·ft (163 to 203 N·m).
9. Lower the battery box, and install the fasteners. Tighten 120 to 150 lbf·ft (163 to 203 N·m).
10. Install the batteries and the battery box cover.
11. Remove the air tank cradles from the aluminum air tank mounting bracket and install them on the new steel bracket. Tighten the mounting bolts and nuts 25 to 31 lbf·ft (34 to 42 N·m).
12. Position the tanks in the cradles on the new mounting bracket and install the straps and fasteners. Tighten the reaction joint clamp bolts 26 lbf·ft (35 N·m).

October 2012

FL631

NHTSA #12V-405

Transport Canada #12-281

INTERIM RECALL BULLETIN

13. Connect all air lines, couplers, and valves to the tank, removing the caps as each component is installed.
14. Install the frame decking, if removed.
15. Pressurize the air system, and check for leaks. Repair as needed.
16. Remove the chocks from the tires.