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By Recall Management Division at 3:23 pm, May 08, 2014

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

April 28, 2014

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-653, Axle Nut Lock Ring (Expansion of
13V-538, FL-653)**

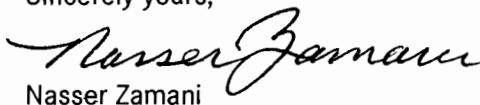
Ms. Lewis,

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 73 Freightliner Cascadia vehicles manufactured August 6, 2012 through December 7, 2012, with rear axles assembled by Meritor, Inc and equipped with ConMet Preset Plus Hubs, that may not have the axle nut lock ring installed. This is an expansion of 13V-538 (FL-653) population as advised by Meritor, Inc (original recall 13E-054 C14AA).

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

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Portland OR 97217-7699
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Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

April 28, 2014

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

Brands: Freightliner

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:
Model(s) affected: Cascadia
Model Years affected: 2013
Manufacture Dates: August 6, 2012 through December 7, 2012
Basis for determining population: Vehicles with rear axles assembled by Meritor, Inc ("Meritor") and equipped with ConMet Preset Plus Hubs.
Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:
Meritor, Inc, 2135 West Maple Road
Troy, Michigan 48084-7184

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 73 United States,

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 100%

(c)(5) Description of the defect: This is an expansion of existing recall 13V-538 (FL-653) and Meritor recall 13E-054 (C14AA). Please see attached DTNA's Defect Information Report for recall 13V-538 (FL-653).

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Please see attached DTNA's Defect Information Report for recall 13V-538 (FL-653).

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:
October 28, 2013 DTNA submitted Defect Information Report FL-653, please see attached.
April 2014 – DTNA receive report of truck with missing locking snap rings. DTNA advised Meritor and Meritor re-examined production line photos of wheel end assemblies. Meritor advised DTNA of recall population expansion. Please see attached DTNA's Defect Information Report for recall 13V-538 (FL-653) for additional details.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: Not Applicable

(c)(8) (i) Remedial program: Suspect axle assemblies will be inspected for the presence of the locking snap ring. Assemblies without locking snap ring will be repaired in accordance with Meritor instructions. 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 no later than June 28, 2014.

Dealer and distributor notification will be completed no later than June 28, 2014.

(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-653

A Daimler Company

Daimler Trucks North America LLC

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Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

October 28, 2013

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

Brands: Freightliner

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

Model(s) affected: Cascadia

Model Years affected: 2013

Manufacture Dates: August 6, 2012 through December 7, 2012

Basis for determining population: Vehicles with rear axles assembled by Meritor, Inc ("Meritor") and equipped with ConMet Preset Plus Hubs.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

Meritor, Inc,

2135 West Maple Road

Troy, Michigan 48084-7184

(c)(3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 82 United States,

(c)(4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** 100%

(c)(5) **Description of the defect:** Locking snap rings used as part of the rear axle wheel end assembly may not have been installed during the assembly of the axle. The absence of the locking snap ring can cause accelerated spindle wear, premature degradation of the wheel bearing components, premature wheel oil seal leaks, and wheel separation. See Meritor recall C14-AA, NHTSA recall number TBD.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety: Separation of the wheel from the rear axle may occur and result in a crash.

(c)(6) **Chronology of principal events:**

August 2012 – December 2012 – Suspect axles manufactured at Meritor, potentially with missing locking snap rings.

August 2013 – DTNA receive 2 reports of wheel separation and begin investigation with Meritor.

September 2013 – Meritor review production photos of wheel end assemblies to determine units that may have missing lock ring.

October 2013 – Meritor notify DTNA of the subject recall.

(c)(7) **Non-compliance-test or other data:** Not Applicable

(c)(8) **(i) Remedial program:** Suspect axle assemblies will be inspected for the presence of the locking snap ring. Assemblies without locking snap ring will be repaired in accordance with Meritor instructions. 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 no later than December 28, 2013.

Dealer and distributor notification will be completed no later than December 28, 2013.

(c)(9) **Information for tire recalls:** Not Applicable

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(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-653

NHTSA 13V-538 (FL-653)