



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 3, 2015

Mr. Kevin Barkley
Warranty Manager
Fontaine Modification
9827 Mt. Holly Road
Charlotte, NC 28214

NVS-215MR
15V-679

Subject: Steering System may Bind or Lock Up

Dear Mr. Barkley:

This letter serves to acknowledge Fontaine Modification's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. 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/M2/2015-2016

Mfr's Report Date: October 20, 2015

NHTSA Campaign Number: 15V-679

Components:

STEERING:LINKAGES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 358

Problem Description:

Fontaine Modification is recalling certain model year 2014-2016 Freightliner M2 vehicles converted to be equipped with dual steering wheels by Fontaine Modification between March 13, 2015 and September 1, 2015. In the affected vehicles, a connecting pin in the dual steering linkage may break or fall out resulting in the momentary loss of steering or steering lock up.

Consequence:

A momentary loss of steering or steering lock up increases the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Fontaine Modification will notify owners and supply a steering linkage connection remedy kit for Freightliner dealers to install free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in November 2015. Owners may contact Fontaine Modification customer service at 1-800-366-8246.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please provide an updated owner notification schedule when it has been determined.

Please 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).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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 Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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