

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-525

Manufacturer Name : Fontaine Modification

Submission Date : OCT 05, 2020

NHTSA Recall No. : 20V-525

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Fontaine Modification

Address : 9827 Mt. Holly Road

Charlotte NC 28214

Company phone : 7043911355

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 1,074

Estimated percentage with defect : 20 %

Vehicle Alterer Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2016-2020 Freightliner 114SD Autohauler

Descriptive Information : Fontaine Modification Company has determined that a Safety Defect exists in certain 2016 to 2021 model year 114SD Freightliner cabs with auto-hauler conversions performed by Fontaine Modification Company. The defect results from instances of improper repositioning of OEM battery standoff brackets that were not performed to Fontaine specifications. A Master VIN list has been established and will be maintained by Fontaine Modification Company. Notification will be sent to the end users and/or owners of all affected vehicles.

Production Dates : MAR 05, 2015 - APR 22, 2020

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : During the Autohauler modification process the cab is lowered approximately four inches. The lowering of the cab requires the repositioning and bending of the OEM battery cable standoff brackets. The standoff brackets on some of these converted units may not have been properly modified.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Due to the improper repositioning of the OEM standoff brackets, movement of the cab during operation may cause the battery cable to contact the bottom of the cab. Contact to the cab over time may result in chaffing of the battery cable.

Description of the Cause : Possible improper repositioning of OEM battery cable standoff brackets inconsistent with Fontaine specifications.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Movement of the cab during operation may cause the battery cable to contact the bottom of the cab. Contact to the cab over time may result in chaffing of the battery cable.

Involved Components :

Component Name : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

- *March 20, 2020, Freightliner, Fontaine and Cottrell received a notification that a Carvana unit (F236) had a damaged electrical harness, they were not able to determine the root cause due to the extent of the damage and condition of the wires in the main chassis harness.
- *March 23, 2020 Repairing dealer ordered a replacement harness.
- *May 5, 2020 Repairing dealer completed the unit and sent photos showing the damaged areas of the harness and battery cables. After reviewing the photos of the damage, it was evident that one area of the positive battery cable had been rubbing the bottom of the cab.
- *May 11, 2020 Fontaine created Field Service Bulletin (FNT-103014004) to verify clearance between the bottom of the cab and the positive battery cable.
- *June 4, 2020 Fontaine compiled a list of potential units that require verification of the location of the battery standoff brackets.
- *June 8, 2020 – Fontaine sent the Field Service Bulletin and list of potential units to end customers and fleets, to verify repositioning of the standoff brackets.
- *June 18, 2020 Fontaine received notification of a Jack Cooper unit that had a thermo event and was having a review of the unit on June 22, 2020. After review of the unit a formal fire inspection was scheduled for unit.
- *July 30, 2020 – Reviewed fire investigator’s findings and determined that any modifications performed by Fontaine was not the root cause of the thermo event.
- *August 17, 2020 – Fontaine decided to issue a notice of recall out of an abundance of caution

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Create work instructions to verify brackets are repositioned to correct location. Reimburse up to 1/2 hour labor to check position of standoff brackets. If standoff brackets are not repositioned, Fontaine will send replacement bracket kit.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Brackets are repositioned to correct location to prevent making contact with bottom of cab supports.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : April 23, 2020 added line on the Quality Control sheet to verify that the standoff brackets are repositioned correctly.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer notification is planned to occur during the week of October 19th, 2020. Customer notification is planned to occur during the week of October 19th, 202. Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Fontaine Modification Company records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 19, 2020 - NOV 09, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 19, 2020 - NOV 09, 2020

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name :
Address :

Country :
Company Phone :

* NR - Not Reported