



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

September 14, 2021

Ms. Larissa Stoffels  
Exec Mgr, Vehicle Safety  
Daimler Trucks North America, LLC  
4747 N. Channel Ave  
Portland, OR 97217

NEF-107MR  
21V-689

**Subject:** Drag Link May Separate

Dear Ms. Stoffels:

This letter serves to acknowledge Daimler Trucks North America, LLC'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/CASCADIA/2019-2021

**Mfr's Report Date:** September 2, 2021

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 21V-689

**Components:**

STEERING:LINKAGES:DRAG:LINK:CONNECTION

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 105,183

**Problem Description:**

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC (DTNA) is recalling certain 2019 Freightliner Classic Cascadia and 2019-2021 Freightliner Cascadia trucks. The drag link taper joint may not have been tightened sufficiently and could come loose, resulting in a complete separation of the drag link from the steering arm.

**Consequence:**

Drag link separation can cause a complete loss of steering control, increasing the risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

DTNA will inspect the drag link taper joint and repair it as necessary, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed on October 31, 2021. Owners may contact DTNA's customer service at 1-800-547-0712. DTNA's number for this recall is FL-900.

**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.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

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.

Daimler Trucks North America, LLC's contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement