

Defect / Noncompliance Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL955

Date of Submission: September 28, 2022

Manufacturer: Daimler Truck North America LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208

Type of Report: ☒ **Safety Defect** ☐ **Non-Compliance**

Vehicle Information

Model Yr. Start: 2023 **Model Yr. End:** 2023
Make: Freightliner
Model: 114SD
Production Dates: **Begin:** January 27, 2022 **End:** July 29, 2022
Number Potentially Involved: 3

Model Yr. Start: 2023 **Model Yr. End:** 2023
Make: Western Star
Model: 4700
Production Dates: **Begin:** January 27, 2022 **End:** July 29, 2022
Number Potentially Involved: 19

Model Yr. Start: 2023 **Model Yr. End:** 2023
Make: Western Star
Model: 4900
Production Dates: **Begin:** January 27, 2022 **End:** July 29, 2022
Number Potentially Involved: 4

Model Yr. Start: 2023 **Model Yr. End:** 2023
Make: Western Star
Model: 49X
Production Dates: **Begin:** January 27, 2022 **End:** July 29, 2022
Number Potentially Involved: 7

Model Yr. Start: 2023

Model Yr. End: 2023

Make: Western Star

Model: 6900

Production Dates: **Begin:** January 27, 2022 **End:** July 29, 2022

Number Potentially Involved: 3

Descriptive Information:

DTNA was notified by axle supplier Meritor, Inc. that tie rod clamps used on certain heavy-duty axles may crack. Out of an abundance of caution, DTNA is recalling this limited population of vehicles that have these tie rod clamps in their axles to replace the clamp.

Basis for Determination of the Recall Population:

Vehicles manufactured with axles containing certain tie rod clamps fabricated during the time period identified by the axle supplier.

Total Number potentially involved: 36

Estimated percentage of involved with defect: 1%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

On certain vehicles, on axles equipped with certain tie rod clamps, the tie rod clamps could crack potentially detaching from the tie rod.

Describe the safety risk:

If the tie rod clamps detach, the tie rod could come loose leading to a loss of steering, which can increase the risk of a crash.

Identify any warning which can precede or occur:

Driver may experience a decrease in steering response, pulling to one side, or notice uneven tire wear.

If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component:

Meritor Inc

Attn: Kevin White (248) 435-1058

2135 West Maple, Troy MI 48084

Involved Components

Component Name: Front Axle

Component Description: ROK MFS-20

Component Part Number: C10-00029-146

Component Name: Front Axle

Component Description: ROK MFS-20

Component Part Number: C10-00029-147

Component Name: Front Axle
Component Description: ROK MFS-20
Component Part Number: C10-00029-159

Component Name: Front Axle
Component Description: Meritor FL-941
Component Part Number: S10-14098-011

Component Name: Front Axle
Component Description: MFS-16
Component Part Number: C10-00030-177

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision:

Meritor, Inc. informed DTNA on September 7, 2022 that cracking in 2 tie rod clamps had been discovered on their manufacturing line and that they had contained the issue to a certain affected population. DTNA promptly began an investigation of the potential severity of the issue and the population. That investigation did not find any field reports, warranty claims, accidents nor injuries related to the issue. After evaluating the population based upon information from Meritor, DTNA expanded its search to look for other possible vehicles with tie rod clamp cracking issues that supplier Meritor possibly missed; that investigation found no such vehicles. On September 22nd, 2022, in an abundance of caution, DTNA decided to conduct a safety recall on the initially suggested population.

Identify the Remedy

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement.

Affected tie rod clamps will be replaced with new tie rod clamps provided by the supplier. Repairs will be performed by Daimler Truck North America authorized service facilities. Daimler Truck North America shall be offering a refund for owner-paid repairs covered by this recall if the repair was performed prior to the date indicated in the reimbursement plan, which will be posted with owner's notification letter. Owners are directed to seek reimbursement through authorized dealers.

Identify the Recall Schedule

Describe the recall schedule for notifications.:

Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date: 11/27/2022
Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 11/27/2022
Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: 11/27/2022
Planned Owner Notification End Date: 11/27/2022

Does DTNA plan to file inconsequentiality petition? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): FL955

DTNA Representative;

Sam Geser

Sam Geser

Manager, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs