U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 25E050

Manufacturer Name: ZF North America, Inc.
Submission Date: Oct 13, 2025
NHTSA Recall No.: 25E050
Manufacturer Recall No.:

Manufacturer Information

Manufacturer Name: ZF North America, Inc.
Address: 12001 Tech Center Drive
Livonia MI, 48150

Population

Total number of potentially involved: 751
Estimated percentage with defect: 0.6%

Equipment Information

Brand / Trade 1: ZF
Model: Global Steering Column
Part Number: A14-20679-001
Type: Original
Function:
Size:
Production Dates: Mar 05, 2025 - Mar 05, 2025
Number of potentially involved: 751
Descriptive Information:
The affected steering columns were supplied exclusively to Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA) for installation as original equipment. The recall population was determined through a review of production and shipping records. ZF is conducting this recall in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573.3(e) in coordination with DTNA.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Due to a maintenance issue on a ZF assembly line, the bolt and nut that fasten the U-Joint attachment between the upper and lower shafts on the subject steering columns may have been assembled without final torque. This condition, if present, may cause the steering system to exhibit looseness between the column and the shaft.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 25E050

Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:

If the bolt and nut that fasten the U-Joint attachment were to come out of the column, the connection between the steering wheel and steering gear could separate, resulting in loss of steering. Loss of steering can increase the risk of a crash.

Description of the cause:

On July 24, 2025, DTNA informed ZF that a vehicle equipped with a ZF steering column was returned to a Freightliner repair facility with the pinch bolt either loose or absent. Subsequent investigation revealed that on the day the suspect steering column was assembled, the line at ZF's Querétaro plant experienced a maintenance issue with the conveyor, causing parts to be moved off the conveyor, then loaded back on. In addition, ZF discovered that its assembly line traceability system is missing data confirming that appropriate torque was applied to the suspect steering column, as well as five other parts. Due to the missing plant data, it is possible that the final fastening torque required by ZF's assembly process was not completed for these remaining five parts.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

If the condition is present, the driver may experience possible looseness in either steering or on-center feel

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier: Tier 1

Supplier Type: OEM

Name: ZF Active Safety Electronics US LLC

Address: Av. De las Fuentes 29
Parque Industrial Bernardo Quintana
El Marques Foreign States, 76246

Country: Mexico

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Global Steering Column

Component Description: Steering column connecting the steering wheel with the steering hydraulic gear

Component Part Number: A14-20679-001 (GA107FL)

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:

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 25E050

Name: Daimler Truck North America

Address: 4747 North Channel Ave.
Portland OR, 97217

Country: United States

Chronology

July 24, 2025: ZF received a report from DTNA regarding a vehicle where the steering wheel was not influencing the direction of the vehicle (free steering).

July 25, 2025: ZF received the serial number for the returned steering column and began an internal investigation. Traceability records determined that the returned part was produced March 05, 2025. Production data for the suspect part did not show that torque was properly applied to the pinch bolt. The production data also indicated that the five parts assembled immediately prior to the steering column also did not have data for the pinch bolt torque. Further investigation identified production records indicating that a conveyor chain break was reported on the relevant production line on that same day. Traceability data showed correct data for all pinch bolt torque operations prior to and after the conveyor was repaired.

July 31, 2025: ZF reported its findings regarding the steering column at issue and the line failure at its assembly plant to DTNA. ZF began working with DTNA to identify the vehicle population equipped with the five suspect units and investigate the underlying issue.

August 20, 2025: Based upon available information and discussions with DTNA, ZF decided the condition constituted a safety-related defect. To date, ZF has received no reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Inspect, Replace

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

ZF will work with its customer, DTNA, to provide detailed instructions for identifying, diagnosing and replacing affected components. Vehicles from the expanded DTNA population will be inspected for the ZF serial numbers on the column to identify the five suspect columns.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 577.11(e), ZF requests that it be exempt from providing notification of a reimbursement plan. Any pre-notification product failure would have been replaced under DTNA's limited warranty. Accordingly, no person would be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to 573.13.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 25E050

Remedy components will have correctly tightened U-Joint connection fasteners.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

ZF's normal production process was interrupted by a one-time maintenance conveyor issue. After production resumed, parts were processed in sequence and proper fastening was verified using the assembly line traceability system.
Specifically, data shows that - aside from the remaining five parts at issue in this recall - correct torque was applied to pinch bolts assembled both prior to and after the conveyor was repaired. ZF reviewed records from January 2025 through the end of July 2025 and noted zero non-standard reports for the affected station.

Reimbursement Plan

Description of reimbursement program:
N/A

Period of reimbursement:
N/A

Costs to be reimbursed:
N/A

Address for reimbursement claims:

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

ZF will coordinate with DTNA to notify owners, identify vehicles with suspect steering columns, and administer the remedy. ZF understands that, due to traceability issues on the OEM side, it may be necessary to contact as many as 751 owners to identify and remedy the 5 suspect parts.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: ☑ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: ☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Oct 21, 2025 - Oct 21, 2025 ☐ Phased Recall