



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V066

Manufacturer Name: FONTAINE MODIFICATION CO.

Submission Date: Feb 11, 2026

NHTSA Recall No.: 26V066

Manufacturer Recall No.:

Manufacturer Information

Population

Manufacturer Name: FONTAINE MODIFICATION
CO.

Address: 9827 Mt Holly Road
Charlotte NC, 28214

Total number of potentially involved: 280

Estimated percentage with defect: 43.2%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2024-2024 FREIGHTLINER BUSINESS CLASS M2 CNG

Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles

Product Type: Truck

Fuel / Propulsion: Compressed Natural Gas

Production Dates: Feb 23, 2023 - Dec 20, 2024

Number of potentially involved: 23

Descriptive Information:

Premium Sit Down Dual Drives

Vehicle 2: 2024-2024 FREIGHTLINER BUSINESS CLASS M2

Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles

Product Type: Truck

Fuel / Propulsion: Compression Ignition Fuel

Production Dates: Mar 20, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024

Number of potentially involved: 255

Descriptive Information:

Premium Sit Down Dual Drives

Vehicle 3: 2025-2025 FREIGHTLINER BUSINESS CLASS M2

Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles

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Product Type: Truck

Fuel / Propulsion: Compression Ignition Fuel

Production Dates: Jan 01, 2025 - Jan 15, 2025

Number of potentially involved: 2

Descriptive Information:

Premium Sit Down Dual Drives

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Steering Gear box binding up.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

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

Gear box can bind up and limit the ability to steer vehicle increasing the potential for a crash to occur.

Description of the cause:

The root cause of the issue was determined that the manufacture did not fill the steering gear box with the required 6 oz of oil.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

No warning can occur.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier: Tier 1

Supplier Type: Other

Name: Curtis Machine Company

Address: 4209 Jayhawk Dr
Dodge City KS, 67801-0700

Country: United States

Involved Components

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Component Name 1: Steering Gear Box

Component Description: Box-Steering, 2-way, PB537MD, DD

Component Part Number: FNT-153324011

Chronology

Issue:

Right□hand steering gear boxes binding up due to insufficient lubrication oil.

Timeline of Events

- 10/23/2025 – First customer reported that the right□hand steering gear box locked up and they heard a loud pop.
- 10/23–12/04/2025 – Three additional customers reported similar failures, totaling four claims.
- Investigation Begins – All four failed gear boxes were sent back to the vendor, Curtis Machine, for inspection.
- 12/10/2025 – Fontaine facilities in Statesville and Charlotte, NC implemented a stop□ship on all potentially affected units pending inspection.
- 12/15/2025 – Curtis Machine completed its inspection and determined the failed gear boxes did not contain the required 6 oz of oil. The issue was traced to specific gear boxes manufactured on 7/26/2025.
- 12/15/2025 – Charlotte and Statesville completed the inspection of all gearboxes on the production floor and stop ship was lifted.
- 12/16/2025- Charlotte and Statesville completed the inspection of all gearboxes in the warehouse.
- 12/29/2025 – Curtis Machine finished its containment process and provided Fontaine with the affected lot numbers, identifying 125 potentially affected gear boxes.
- 01/05/2026 – Curtis Machine supplied Fontaine with the purchase order numbers for gear boxes shipped to the Statesville and Charlotte facilities.
- 01/16/2026 – Fontaine determined this to be a safety recall and began compiling a list of all potentially affected units and gathering registration information.

Findings

- Root cause: Gear boxes manufactured on 7/26/2025 were assembled without the required 6 oz of oil.
- Total potentially affected gear boxes: 125.
- 4 Total warranty calls and repairs completed.
- No injuries or fatalities have been reported in association with the steering gear box failures.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

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Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Inspect, Replace

Consumer Advisories: Do Not Drive Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

We have work instructions how to inspect and replace the steering gear box. We will have the customer inspect the steering gear box for the manufacture date of 7/26/24. If is not that date no further action required. If the date is 7/26/24 or there is no manufacture label proceed to replacing the steering gear box.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

Vendor has implemented a two person inspection and added a visual marking after the oil has been added to the gear box and verified to have oil.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

Manufacture remedy: On 12/15/2025 when the vendor determined that there was no oil in the four gear boxes they had a stop ship on all gearboxes at there facility until all units were inspected and they have implemented a 2 step verification process with visual marking to verify that oil has been added.
Fontaine Production remedy: On 12/10/2025 we implemented a stop ship on all potentially affected units pending inspection. On 12/15/2025 Charlotte and Statesville completed the inspection of all gearboxes on the production floor and stop ship was lifted. On 12/16/2025 Charlotte and Statesville completed the inspection of all gearboxes in the warehouse.

Reimbursement Plan

Description of reimbursement program:

Send out work instructions on how to inspect the steering gear box and how to replace the steering gear box.

Fontaine will cover up to thirty minutes to inspect the steering gear box.

If the steering gear box needs to be replaced Fontaine will provide the steering gear box and new hardware, we will cover up to four hours to replace the steering gear box.

If owner has already repaired the steering gear box prior to receiving the recall letter, we will ask that they send an invoice to warranty@fontainemod.com for review and possible reimbursement.

Period of reimbursement:

Costs to be reimbursed:

Thirty minutes to inspect the steering gear box.

Four hours to replace the steering gear box.

Address for reimbursement claims:

8810 Old Dowd Rd
Charlotte NC, 28214

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**26V066****Recall Schedule****Description of recall schedule:****Planned Dealer Notification Date:** No Dealers**Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:** Mar 02, 2026 - Mar 31, 2026 No Owners**Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date:** Mar 02, 2026 - Mar 31, 2026 Phased Recall**Date when VIN will be searchable:**