

**INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF DEFECT
INFORMATION REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR PART 573**

Assigned Recall No. 99V-172 by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

JUL 12 1999

Part 573 Report Date: June 29, 1999

MANUFACTURER: Freightliner Corporation

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Gary W. Rossow

FAX: (503) 735-6800

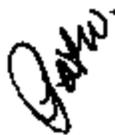
SUBJECT: 220 Freightliner 1999 FLN and FLD, and 1999 Sterling LT7500 model trucks equipped with TufTrac suspensions and manufactured from March 17 through June 17, 1999. The rear suspension axle clamps can fracture, allowing the rear axle to shift. Freightliner Campaign No. FL-241.

This is an initial acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

In accordance with Part 577, amended July 7, 1995, a draft owner notification letter must be submitted for review prior to mailing.

As stated in Part 573.6, 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. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin August 11, 1999. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by October 30, 1999.

If you have any questions, please call:



Patricia Wallace, Recall Analyst on (202) 366-5232 or
Jonathan White, Chief on (202) 366-5227
Recall Analysis Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Mr. Gary W. Rossow
Director, Government Technical Affairs
Freightliner Corporation
4747 N. Channel Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

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99V-172

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Dear Mr. Rossow:

After review of the file concerning this recall, it appears that an acknowledgment letter was never sent to you. Please accept our apologies for this oversight.

We have reviewed Freightliner Corporation's (Freightliner) Defect Information Report dated June 29, 1999, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 220 Freightliner 1999 FLN and FLD, and 1999 Sterling LT7500 model trucks equipped with TufTrac suspensions and manufactured from March 17 through June 17, 1999. The rear suspension axle clamps can fracture, allowing the rear axle to shift. **The assigned identification number for this recall is 99V-172 (Freightliner Recall No. FL-241).**

Freightliner is responsible for the remedy of these vehicles from this date forward, regardless of vehicle age, mileage, or ownership.

Recall Communications

Communications pertaining to safety recalls and issued by Freightliner to more than one distributor, dealer, purchaser, or owner are to be submitted to this office within 5 days of issuance as described under 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9). Where this information is sent over a period time, the communications are to be submitted within 5 days from the date the communications were first sent, and furnish the date, or range of dates, each communication was issued. This includes information transmitted by computer, telefax, or other electronic means; and initial or interim communications. All copies are to be in readable form and a written transcript should be provided for each non-written communication. Also, if the communication was not nationally and uniformly distributed, then identify the criteria used for the distribution.

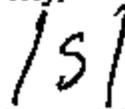
Manufacturer Communications

Part 573.8, "Notices, Bulletins and Other Communications," requires that every motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment manufacturer shall furnish a copy of **all notices, bulletins, and other communications (including warranty and policy extension communiques and product improvement bulletins)** to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or purchasers, regarding any defect in its vehicle or items of equipment (including any failure or malfunction beyond normal deterioration in use, any failure of performance, or any flaw or unintended deviation from design specifications), **whether or not such defect is safety related.** These notices or communications are to be submitted, regardless of the media used to transmit the information. Where communications are made orally or electronically, provide a transcript. In all other cases, provide the information in the media form used to transmit the information.

On a case by case basis, we may require written transcripts of this material as well. Copies are to be submitted monthly, not more than 5 working days after the end of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Wallace at (202) 366-5232 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. White'.

Jonathan D. White, Chief
Recall Analysis Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Safety Assurance