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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Gary W. Rossow
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August 12, 1999

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Office of Defects Investigation, Room 5326
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

99V-223 (01)

Attn: Jonathan D. White

Subject: Information Report, FL 243

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner Corporation herewith submits an information report for a new recall campaign to recall motor home chassis manufactured by Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation due to possible power steering fluid leaks.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No P 335 662 639

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Date: August 12, 1999

99V-223 (02)

(c) (1) Manufacturer: FREIGHTLINER CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 735-8078

(c) (2) Vehicles Identification:

(ii) **Model(s) Affected:** Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation - manufactured XC model motorhome chassis equipped with a side mount radiator and hydraulic system.

Manufacture Dates: July 1997 through June 30, 1999

Basis for Determining Population: The beginning date is when this configuration was first manufactured and the ending date is when a design change occurred that corrected the problem.

(iv) Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: N/A

(c) (3) Total Number of Vehicles Potentially affected: 1,092

(c) (4) Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect: 100%

(c) (5) Description of the Defect: The filter gasket for the power steering hydraulic fluid may blow out due to pressure spikes in the system. This can result in a loss of power steering fluid and an eventual loss of power assist to the steering if the leak is undetected. There is no warning to the driver that this may be occurring. The vehicle will still have mechanical steering.

(c) (6) Chronology of Principal Events: On 4/13/99 Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation (FCCC) Field Service reported two incidents involving motor homes leaking power steering fluid.

On 4/20/99 FCCC initiated a test project to determine the cause. Testing continued through May and June. It was determined that pressure spikes were causing a filter gasket to leak. Testing in July with an accumulator added to the system eliminated the pressure spikes.

On 8/6/99 FCCC recommended to Freightliner that the affected vehicles be recalled.

On August 11, 1999 the decision to recall was made.

(c) (7) Noncompliance Test Data: N/A

(c) (8)(I) Remedial Program: Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs.

(II) Estimated Owner Notification Date: Customer notification will be by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers effected. This will be completed as soon as possible, but not later than 9/24/99.

Remedy: The power steering hydraulic system will be reconfigured to eliminate the pressure spikes.

(c) (9) Communications Sent to Dealers and Owners: Copies will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

(c) (10) Copy of Proposed Owner Notification Letter: A draft will be sent for ODI review when available.

(c) (11) Manufacturer's Campaign Number: FL-243