



INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AND ENGINE CORPORATION
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TRUCK GROUP

03V-070 ① or ②

February 27, 2003

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report

Pursuant to Part 573.6, this Vehicle Safety Defect Initial Information Report is submitted by International Truck and Engine Corporation. This report relates to the clearance between the engine starter motor and the frame rail.

- (1) INTERNATIONAL RECALL NUMBER ASSIGNED: **03504**.
- (2) VEHICLE MODELS INVOLVED: 8600 models.
- (3) MODEL YEARS INVOLVED: 2003.
- (4) OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLES:
All vehicles have a Caterpillar engine with 4 degree tilt.
- (5) VEHICLE MANUFACTURING DATES: First built was 9/03/02 and last built was 1/30/03.
- (6) VEHICLE POPULATION INVOLVED: U.S. = 142
Canada = 40
- (7) PORTION OF POPULATION ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN DEFECT: 100% are expected to have a possible clearance issue. Because there are variations in the frame rails and engine positions that affect the air gap between the stud and the rail we do not expect all vehicles to have an immediate clearance issue. Only two vehicles have been reported to date.

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INVESTIGATION

- (8) **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:** The starter field-stud may contact the frame rail. If the field stud of the starter contacts the frame rail and the starter is energized there can be a direct full battery current short to the frame (ground) when the starter is in the cranking mode.
- (9) **RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY:** If the field stud of the starter contacts the frame rail during the engine cranking mode, the direct short can create a fire hazard which may result in property damage, personal injury, or death.
- (10) **CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF A SAFETY DEFECT:**
- A. 01/29/03, International first became aware of this issue from a field report.
 - B. 01/30/03, Starters with nose cones were first installed at International's Garland Assembly Plant.
 - C. 02/04/03, Completed identification of vehicle population and determined the full extent of the potential defect.
 - D. 02/20/03, International declared recall 03504 to correct these vehicles.
- (11) **PROGRAM TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY DEFECT:** Replace the starter nose cone on all the suspect vehicles. The new nose cone will reorient the starter stud farther away from the frame rail to completely eliminate the clearance issue.

Reimbursement Procedure: All of these vehicles are still under warranty; therefore, no customer reimbursement procedure will be included for this recall.

- (12) **THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS RECALL IS:**

Notify field service	F: 3/14/03
Notify dealers	F: 3/21/03
Notify customer	F: 3/28/03

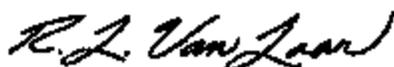
(13) **PROCEDURE TO INFORM SECRETARY OF FAILURE TO REMEDY WITHOUT CHARGE:** The following sentences will be included in the owner notification letter. If you take your vehicle to your International dealer on a mutually agreed upon service date, and the dealer does not remedy this condition without charge on that date or within five days, you can obtain assistance by following the procedure described in the Owner Assistance Guide section in your Owner's Manual, or by calling toll free 1-800-448-7825. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20590, or call the Administration's toll-free Auto Safety Hot-Line at 1-888-327-4236 if your International dealer fails to repair or is unable to remedy this condition without charge or within a reasonable time.

(14) **OWNER LETTER AND TECHNICAL LETTER:** Refer to number (12).

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall at (260) 461-1890.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL TRUCK AND ENGINE CORPORATION



R. L. Van Laar
Compliance Manager

Sent Via E-mail
cc: M. D. Roeth