

JAN 12 2000

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

Assigned Recall No. 00V-002.001 by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Report Date: December 22, 1999

MANUFACTURER: Freightliner Corporation

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Gary W. Rossow

FAX: (503) 735-6800

SUBJECT: 268 Freightliner 1997 FLN model trucks manufactured from June 6 through December 26, 1997, and equipped with Haldex manifold dash valves (MDV) and manufactured from June 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997. These valves do not meet the requirements of FMVSS No. 121, "Air Brake Systems." A loss of the isolation of the two brake system circuits can result in the loss of service brakes when there is another failure of one of the two brake circuits. Freightliner Campaign No. FL-248.

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.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle which fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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 during February 2000. Since this is so close to the end of the quarter, the first quarterly report will be due by April 30, 2000.

If you have any questions, please call:

Patricia Wallace, Recall Analyst on (202) 366-5232 or
Jonathan White, Chief on (202) 366-5227
or fax on (202) 366-7882
Recall Analysis Division



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20390

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

NSA-11amc
00V-002.001

Dear Mr. Rossow:

We have reviewed Freightliner Corporation's (Freightliner) Noncompliance Information Report dated December 22, 1999, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 268 Freightliner 1997 FLN model trucks manufactured from June 6 through December 26, 1997, and equipped with Haldex manifold dash valves (MDV) and manufactured from June 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997. A loss of the isolation of the two brake system circuits can result in the loss of service brakes when there is another failure of one of the two brake circuits. These valves do not meet the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 121, "Air Brakes." **The assigned Identification Number for this recall is 00V-002.001 (Freightliner Recall No.FL-248).**

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

Quarterly Status Reports

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 was expected to begin during February 2000. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by April 30, 2000.

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,

/s/

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