

# **VOLVO**

**Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.**

October 7, 2003

**VIA EXPRESS MAIL**

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED  
NHTSA-2115  
OCT -8 P 1:59  
OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

03V-381 ① of ②

The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.5 as it applies to a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

573.5(c)(1)  
Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.  
P.O. Box 26115  
Greensboro, NC 27402-6115

573.5(c)(2)  
Volvo VNM model, heavy-duty class 8 vehicles assembled by Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. between January 8, 2001, and May 23, 2003.

The vehicles affected by this notification were selected by using the part numbers associated with the optional chassis mounted emergency start studs.

573.5(c)(3)  
One hundred and seventy-six (176) vehicles potentially contain the suspect defect.

573.5(c)(4)  
Percentage of vehicles expected to contain the suspect defect is 100%.

573.5(c)(5)  
Salt and other highway snow and ice removal chemicals are getting under the protective caps of the chassis mounted emergency start studs and corroding them. This condition deteriorates the studs and the connections. Over time the studs may loosen sufficiently to cause an electrical short.

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573.5 (c)(6)

6-18-03

Customer alleged that the chassis mounted emergency start studs had loosened and shorted out against the chassis of the vehicle.

7-25-03

Engineering review learned that salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice on the road surface had seeped under the protective covers of the studs and corroded the studs sufficiently to cause them to loosen and short out against the chassis. A redesign of the installation was initiated.

10-3-03

As of this date no reports of accidents or injuries have been reported attributable to this issue.

10-1-03

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. decided that the condition described in this notification constitutes a defect and that such defect is safety related.

573.5(c)(7)

Not applicable

573.5(c)(8)

Volvo Trucks North America, Inc. will initiate a voluntary owner notification, and recall of all 176 vehicles built with the suspect condition identified in this notification. All of the affected vehicles are operated by one fleet.

The recall repair will consist of the installation of new chassis mounted emergency start studs and associated battery cables.

The number, which has been assigned to this recall by Volvo Trucks North America, Inc., is RVXX0307.

The recall is tentatively scheduled to commence within 30 working days from the date of this notification.

Very Truly Yours



Charles D. Powell  
Recall Administrator