

FREIGHTLINER
CORPORATION

A DaimlerChrysler Company

Gary W. Rossow
Director
Government Technical Affairs

March 17, 2000

Freightliner Corporation
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Portland, OR 97217
503.735.8662 Phone
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GaryRossow@Freightliner.com

Office of Defects Investigation, Room 5328
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

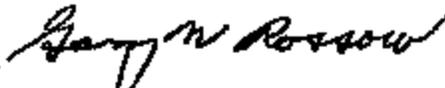
00V-081 (e)

Attn: Jonathan D. White

Subject: Information Report, FL-255

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner Corporation herewith submits an information report for a new recall campaign to recall Freightliner trucks for defective air ride suspension springs.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No Z 224 782 557

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Date: March 17, 2000

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

00V-081 02

(c) (2) **Vehicles identification:**

- (ii) **Model(s) affected:** Freightliner Century Class, FLD, Argosy and Business Class models, Sterling A-Line and L-Line models.
Manufacture Dates: Vehicles built with dual leaf spring type air ride suspensions from 12/1/99 through 2/17/00 at all locations. Vehicles built with single leaf spring type air ride suspensions from 12/8/99 through 2/17/00 at the Portland Truck Manufacturing Plant (TMP) and 1/6/00 through 2/17/00 at the Cleveland, Mt. Holly and Santiago TMPs and the Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation.
Basis for determining population: The first and last vehicles built with springs that may fracture.
- (iv) **Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:**
Hendrickson International
P.O. Box 1101
Stratford, Ontario N5A 7X1

(c) (3) **Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** Approximately 12,380

(c) (4) **Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect:** Unknown

(c) (5) **Description of the defect:** Rear suspension springs may fracture through the center bolt hole after vehicle assembly. If undetected, the rear end of the spring may separate from the vehicle causing a hazardous road debris situation.

(c) (6) **Chronology of principal events (defect only):** During February 2000, two Freightliner dealers and Freightliner's Cleveland Truck Manufacturing Plant reported finding rear suspension springs with cracks on newly manufactured vehicles.

On February 17, 2000 the spring manufacturer notified Freightliner that the hardness on certain batches of springs were found out of specification resulting in a condition of higher hardness that may cause the spring to crack through the center bolt hole when subjected to stress. Freightliner began an investigation to determine if an undetected cracked spring could affect vehicle control or if a piece of spring could separate from the vehicle. Testing indicated that vehicle control should not be affected but the rear section of the spring leaf could separate from the vehicle.

Freightliner met with the spring manufacturer again on March 9, 2000. They stated that no process problems could be found that would have affected any batches of the dual leaf springs that had been indicated in the February 17, 2000 meeting. A review of Freightliner warranty data, field reports and TMP reports indicated fractures were occurring with both single and dual leaf springs.

The issue of whether a spring that does not crack shortly after assembly may crack later during service will continue to be investigated.

It was decided to recall the affected vehicles.

(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 affected. This will be completed approximately May 1, 2000.

Remedy: For vehicles equipped with single leaf springs, remove and replace all springs. For vehicles equipped with dual leaf springs, inspect for cracked springs and replace if cracked.

(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-255



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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Gary W. Rossow
Director
Government Technical Affairs

DATE: June 6, 2000

Freightliner LLC
4747 N Channel Ave.
Portland, OR 97217
503.746.6882 Phone
503.746.6800 Fax
GaryRossow@Freightliner.com

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

Attn: Jonathan D. White

Subject: Information Report, NHTSA No: 00V-081

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner Corporation herewith submits an information report supplying supplemental information.
Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No. Z 224 782 550

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Supplement No.: 1

Date: June 6, 2000

(c) (1) Manufacturer: FREIGHTLINER LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-8078

(c) (8)(I) Remedial program:

Remedy: (Revised to read) Inspect for cracked springs and replace if cracked.

(c) (11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-255



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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Gary W. Rossow
Director
Government Technical Affairs

August 23, 2000

Freightliner LLC
4747 N Channel Ave.
Portland, OR 97217
503.746.6882 Phone
503.746.6800 Fax
Gary.Rossow@Freightliner.com

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

Attn: Jonathan D. White

Subject: Information Report, NHTSA No. 00V-081

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner LLC herewith submits an Information report supplying supplemental information and copies of documents distributed to dealers and purchasers.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No. Z 224 782 521

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Supplement No.: 2

August 23, 2000

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

(c) (2) Vehicles identification:

(ii) Model(s) affected: Additional models affected: Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation FS-65 School Bus and Shuttle Buses.

(c) (3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: (Revise to read) 13,545

(c) (8)(i) Remedial program:

(ii) Estimated owner notification date: Owner notifications were mailed on August 7, 2000

(c) (11) Manufacturer's campaign number: FL-255