

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

Assigned Recall No. 00V-246,001 by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

AUG 31 2000

Part 573 Report Date: August 23, 2000

MANUFACTURER: Freightliner Corporation

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Gary W. Rossow

FAX: (503) 735-6800

SUBJECT: 45,000 Freightliner 1999 FLD, Century Class, FLN, Argosy, Sterling, Sterling Acterra, FCCC models MT-45 and MT-55 heavy duty trucks equipped with TRW tie rod ends on certain Meritor axles and manufactured from July 12 through October 10, 1999. The tie rod and draglink ball stud ends contain bearings that are below the specified case depth and/or hardness. This can lead to premature wear out and possible separation of the ball stud from the socket. *Freightliner Campaign No. FL-268*

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.

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 October 5, 2000.* Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by January 30, 2001.

If you have any questions, please call:

Patricia Wallace, Recall Analyst on (202) 366-5232 or
Jonathan White, Chief on (202) 366-5226
or fax on (202) 366-7882
Recall Analysis Division

DEC 29 2000

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

NSA-11paw
00V-246.101

Dear Mr. Rossow:

We have reviewed Freightliner Corporation's (Freightliner) Defect Information Report dated August 23, 2000, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 45,000 Freightliner 1999 FLD, Century Class, FLN, Argosy, Sterling, Sterling Acterra, FCCC models MT-45 and MT-55 heavy duty trucks equipped with TRW tie rod ends on certain Meritor axles and manufactured from July 12 through October 10, 1999. The tie rod and draglink ball stud ends contain bearings that are below the specified case depth and/or hardness. This can lead to premature wear out and possible separation of the ball stud from the socket. The assigned recall identification number for this recall is 00V-246.101 (*Freightliner Campaign No. FL-268*).

Freightliner is responsible for the remedy of these vehicles 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 October 5, 2000. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by January 30, 2001.

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