FREIGHTLINER LLC
A DaimlerChrysler Company

Gary W. Rossow
Director
Government Technical Affairs

Freightliner LLC
4747 N Channel Ave.
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August 23, 2000

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

Attn: Jonathan D. White

00V-246.101 (01)

Subject: Information Report, FL266

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner LLC herewith submits an information report for a new recall campaign to recall Freightliner trucks for a defect in vehicles equipped with certain steering tie rod and drag link ends manufactured by TRW.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No z 224 782 517

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Date: August 23, 2000

00V-246.101 (03)

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

(c) (2) Vehicles Identification:

(ii) Model(s) affected: Freightliner model FLD, Century Class, FLN, Argosy, Sterling and Sterling Acterra. FCCC models MT-45 and MT-55
Manufacture Dates: Approximately July 12, 1999 through October 10, 1999.
Basis for determining population: The first and last vehicles built with defective tie rod and drag link ends.

(iv) Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer: TRW Automotive

(c) (3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: Approximately 45,000

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

(c) (5) Description of the defect: 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 a possible separation of the ball stud from the socket.

(c) (6) Chronology of principal events (defect only): In May 2000, Freightliner began receiving reports of tie rod ends wearing out prematurely and separating. An investigation began with the tie rod manufacturer. Meetings with the manufacturer were held throughout June and July 2000.

On August 4, 2000 TRW filed a part 573 defect report with NHTSA announcing a recall of tie rod ends on certain Meritor axles rated 12,000 lbs GAWR and above. TRW reported that the ball socket bearing case depth and/or hardness was below specification.

On August 21, 2000 TRW informed Freightliner that the population needed to be expanded to include tie rod ends on axles rated below 12,000 lbs GAWR and drag link applications. Freightliner concurs with these actions.

(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 October 5, 2000.

Remedy: Remove and replace all affected tie rods and drag links with different designed ends.

(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-268

FREIGHTLINER® LLC
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Director
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November 14, 2000

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. 00E-047 — 00V-246.101

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner LLC herewith submits an information report that adds approximately 21 Thomas Built Buses to the population of this recall. This responds to the attached EQ00-25. Also, Freightliner has revised the total number of vehicles affected from 45,000 to 57,000.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No. Z 224 782 586

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Supplement No.: 1

Date: November 14, 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 Thomas Built Buses model ER Transit and TL 960.

(c) (3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: (Revise to read) Approximately 57,000.

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GaryRossow@Freightliner.com

December 11, 2000

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. 00E-047/00V-246.101

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

Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No. Z 224 782 593

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Supplement No.: 3

Date: December 11, 2000

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

(c) (2) Vehicles Identification:

(ii) Model(s) affected: (Add the following) Freightliner FLBs, Cargos and FLS 112s, Sterling Cargos, American LaFrance Fire Trucks and Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporations FS-65 School Bus chassis.

FREIGHTLINER LLC
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June 22, 2001

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-246.101

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner LLC herewith submits an information report extending recall 00V-246.101 to include vehicles that may be equipped with additional defective tie rod ends and drag line ends that were not part of the initial recall.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No. Z 224 782 633

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Supplement No.: 4

Date: June 22, 2001

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

(c) (2) Vehicles Identification:
Manufacture dates: To be determined
Basis for determining population: The population will be extended to include additional defective tie rod end build date codes.

(c) (3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: To be determined

(c) (6) Chronology of principal events (defects only): In 2001 Freightliner began receiving reports of tie rod separation on vehicles outside the recall time frame. It was decided to extend recall FL-268 to include vehicles that may have been built with tie rods having build date codes indicating the second through fourth week of June 2000, first through the fourth week of October 2000, and third through the fifth week of May 2001. Also, all drag links with type 20 EDL ends will be replaced.

FREIGHTLINER® LLC
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Gary W. Rossow
Director
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GaryRossow@Freightliner.com

June 26, 2001

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-246.101

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner LLC herewith submits an information report supplying supplemental information. This report corrects errors with the dates listed in the chronology submitted with Freightliner's June 22, 2001 supplemental report.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No. Z 224 782 634

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Supplement No.: 5

Date: June 26, 2001

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

(c) (6) Chronology of principal events (revise the supplemental chronology submitted 6/22/01 to read): In 2001 Freightliner began receiving reports of tie rod separation on vehicles outside the recall time frame. It was decided to extend recall FL-268 to include vehicles that may have been built with tie rods having build date codes indicating the second through fourth week of June 1999, first through the fourth week of October 1999, third through the fifth week of May 2000 and the first week of June 2000. Also, all drag links with type 20 EDL ends will be replaced.

FREIGHTLINER LLC
A DaimlerChrysler Company

Gary W. Rossow
Director
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GaryRossow@Freightliner.com

July 9, 2001

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-246.001

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner LLC herewith submits an Information report supplying supplemental information. Freightliner's June 22 and June 26, 2001 supplemental reports, extending the scope of this recall, indicated all type 20 EDL drag links would be recalled. After discussion with TRW, Freightliner has decided to only recall drag links with the suspect date codes indicated in the revised chronology.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Rossow

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No. Z 224 782 637

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Supplement No.: 6

Date: July 9, 2001

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

(c) (6) Chronology of principal events (revise the supplemental chronology submitted 6/26/01 to read): In 2001 Freightliner began receiving reports of tie rod separation on vehicles outside the recall time frame. It was decided to extend recall FL-268 to include vehicles that may have been built with tie rods and/or drag links having build date codes indicating the second through fourth week of June 1999, first through the fourth week of October 1999, third through the fifth week of May 2000 and the first week of June 2000.

FREIGHTLINER LLC
A DaimlerChrysler Company

Timothy Blubaugh, P.E.
Sr. Development Engineer
Safety Regulations

Freightliner LLC
4747 N. Channel Avenue
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503.745.6644 Fax
TimothyBlubaugh@Freightliner.com

January 30, 2002

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

Re: **Information Report, NHTSA No. 00V-246.101**

In accordance with Title 49, Part 573, Freightliner LLC herewith submits an information report supplying supplemental information. This report revises the 00V-246.101 due to additional tie rod build dates being recalled and also combining Western Star's recall (00V-246.304) with Freightliner LLC's recall.

Sincerely,

Timothy Blubaugh

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Certified Mail No. Z 313 288 164

Section 573.5 Defect Information Report

Supplement No.: 9

January 30, 2002

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

(c) (3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: (Revise to read) 65,955