



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

*November 8, 2006*

TIMOTHY BLUBAUGH  
DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL AFFAIRS  
FREIGHTLINER LLC  
4747 NORTH CHANNEL AVENUE  
PORTLAND OR 97217-7699

NVS-215  
06V-424

Subject: FRONT AXLE ASSEMBLY

Dear MR. BLUBAUGH:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
FREIGHTLINER/COLUMBIA/2006-2007

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 06V-424

**Mfg's Report Date:** October 25, 2006

**Components:** SUSPENSION: FRONT

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 9

**Summary:**

ON CERTAIN TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH ARVINMERITOR FRONT AXLE ASSEMBLIES, THE FRONT SPINDLE NUT MAY BE OVER-TIGHTENED CAUSING PRELOAD ON THE FRONT WHEEL BEARINGS WHICH MAY LEAD TO PREMATURE BEARING WEAR.

**Consequence:**

IF RAPID BEARING WEAR IS ALLOWED TO PROGRESS, THE FRONT WHEEL ASSEMBLY MAY SEPARATE FROM THE VEHICLE AND CAUSE A CRASH WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE FRONT HUB INSTALLATION FOR CORRECT BEARING ADJUSTMENT. IF THE BEARING ADJUSTMENT IS INCORRECT, THE FRONT WHEEL BEARINGS WILL BE REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON DECEMBER 21, 2006. OWNERS MAY CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712.

**Notes:**

FREIGHTLINER RECALL NO. FL-484. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

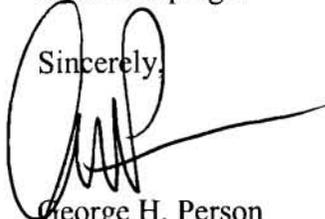
Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, 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 on December 21, 2006. Since this is so close to the end of the quarter, the first quarterly report will be due on or before April 30, 2007.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [patricia.wallace@dot.gov](mailto:patricia.wallace@dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement