



RECEIVED

2006 OCT -26 P 3:07

Timothy Blubaugh
Director
Government Technical Affairs

Freightliner LLC
4717 7th Avenue SW
Portland, OR 97204-3500
PO Box 38191
Portland, OR 97208-0191
503.746.5239 Phone
503.746.0000 Fax
mailto:blubaugh@freightliner.com

October 26, 2006

06V-424
(3 pages)

Dan Smith
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Defect Information Report FL-484,
ProTorq Spindle Nut Adjustment with Non-preset Front Hubs**

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Freightliner LLC herewith reports a safety campaign to recall nine Freightliner Columbia truck-tractors manufactured November 2005 to September 2006 with incorrectly set front wheel bearing adjustment.

Attached is Freightliner's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Blubaugh

cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA
enclosure
CERTIFIED MAIL#70023150000414054318

Defect Information Report
(Section 573.6)

October 25, 2006

(c)(1) Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208
(503) 745-5219

Brands: Freightliner

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Model(s) affected: Columbia

Model Years affected: 2006, 2007

Manufacture Dates: November 2005 to September 2006

Basis for determining population: Vehicles with front axles assembled by Meritor November 2005 to July 2006 at York with Pro-Torq spindle nuts and non-preset hubs. Meritor identified the specific axles using production records that were assembled with incorrect adjustment. All affected vehicles were built in Cleveland, North Carolina.

Component manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacturer:

ArvinMeritor, Inc.
801 Railroad Avenue
York, SC 29745

(c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 9

(c)(4) Percentage of vehicles estimated to contain the defect: 100%

(c)(5) Description of the defect: The front spindle nut may be over-tightened causing preload on the front wheel bearings which may lead to premature bearing wear.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety:

If rapid bearing wear is allowed to progress, the front wheel assembly may separate from the vehicle and cause a vehicle crash without prior warning.

(c)(6) Chronology of principal events:

Freightliner Quality received a report of a front wheel separation on s/n N72146 with 100 miles. ArvinMeritor determined bearing adjustment was set incorrectly at York on axles with Pro-Torq spindle nuts with non-preset hubs. The wheel bearings were installed with excessive preload using the preset hub installation procedure. Meritor initiated corrective action and additional endplay inspection.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: not applicable

(c)(8) 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. Dealer notification will be completed December 15, 2006. The front hub installation will be inspected for correct bearing adjustment. If the bearing adjustment is incorrect, the front wheel bearings will be replaced.

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 December 21, 2006.

Reimbursement Plan: All prior repairs were completed under warranty.

(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-484