



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 07-003  
Date Opened: 12/05/2007  
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman  
Subject: Front Wheel Separations

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC  
Products: 2000-2007 MY Acterra & 2002-2007 MY M2 Business Class  
Population: 9,602 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Front wheel separation due to low lubricant and/or loss of lubricant leading to wheel bearing failure.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	Confidential	Confidential

\*Description of Other: Separations reported in 2007 monitoring program.

Action: Open a recall query.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman  
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd *RB*  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: Freightliner conducted recall campaign 04V-272 in May 2004 to correct an estimated 9,602 Model Year 2000-2003 Acterra and Model Year 2002-2004 M2 Business Class Vehicles equipped with 6,000 - 8,000 lbs. Capacity front axles, a four piece spindle nut system, and wheel seals manufactured by Chicago Rawhide.

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ODI's review of Early Warning Data in early 2007 led to a 6-month monitoring program at Freightliner, which has identified that front wheel separations have occurred in vehicles ostensibly addressed by campaign 04V-272, as well as in vehicles manufactured during 2005 and 2006 by which time corrections / improvements identified in April, 2004 should have been fully implemented in original equipment manufacturing processes.

ODI is concerned whether the improvements / corrections incorporated in post April 2004 vehicle production and deployed under campaign 04V-272 are proving effective.