

# DAIMLER



Daimler Trucks North America  
Nasser Zamani  
Manager  
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs

March 7, 2008

Dan Smith  
Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington D.C. 20590

**Re: Defect Information Report – Supplemental Report No. 1  
07V-530, FL-514, Holland Simplex Fifthwheel Lever Pivot Bolt**

Mr. Smith

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Daimler Trucks North America LLC herewith submits supplemental defect information and copies of documents to be distributed to dealers and purchasers.

- (c)(3) Total number of vehicles potentially affected: 38,355**
- (c) (8) Communications sent to dealers: posted December 22, 2007  
Communications sent to owners: mailed January 3, 2008**
- (c) (9) Copies of Communications sent to owners and dealers are attached.**

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nasser Zamani'.

Nasser Zamani

Cc: Michael Mason, CAL-OSHA

Enclosure

Certified Mail# 7003 2260 0001 3403 6920

A Daimler Company

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## Subject: Holland Simplex Fifth Wheel Pivot Spacers

**Models Affected: Specific Freightliner Argosy, Business Class M2, Cascadia, Century Class S/T, Columbia, Coronado, and FLD vehicles; Sterling A/L-Line and Acterra vehicles; and Western Star 4900 vehicles manufactured between January 2, 2006, and June 29, 2007.**

### General Information

Freightliner LLC, on behalf of its Freightliner Trucks Division and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Sterling Truck Corporation and Western Star Truck Sales, Inc., has decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists on the vehicles mentioned above.

There are approximately 40,000 vehicles involved in this campaign.

The latch lever pivot bolt assembly on certain Holland Simplex fifth wheels may have been over-tightened, which may distort the pivot bolt spacer sleeve. In addition, contamination or corrosion in the pivot may cause it to bind, preventing the fifth wheel jaw from latching securely around the trailer king pin. The incomplete latch condition is evident by looking at the fifth wheel coupling indicator on the side of the fifth wheel and inspecting the fifth wheel jaws after coupling to the trailer. Should the fifth wheel fail to latch without the driver's knowledge, the vehicle could be driven away and the trailer could disengage, increasing the risk of a crash.

The existing pivot bolt with spacer sleeve will be replaced with a shoulder bolt and washer.

Please be aware of the following when working with customers and performing FL514AB:

- **FL514A** – All vehicles in FL514A will be inspected for a pin and cotter key or a hex head pivot bolt with spacer sleeve. If a pin and cotter key is present, no further work is needed. If a hex head pivot bolt with spacer sleeve is present, kit **25-SF373-000** must be installed. Please note the correct kit number.
- **FL514B** – Vehicles in FL514B have been repaired prior to the Recall by SAF Holland. If customers have any concerns, they may have their vehicle inspected upon request to confirm that the new shoulder bolt and washer have been installed. The claim number that is in ServicePro (claim no. "9999999") will be removed so the inspecting dealer can file a claim for the inspection; submit an inquiry to Warranty Campaigns for assistance.

**REVISION:** An inspection and an SRT have been added to address fifth wheels with an older pin and cotter key design. These fifth wheels do not need replacement parts installed.

### Additional Repairs

Dealers must complete all outstanding recall and field service campaigns prior to the sale or delivery of a vehicle. A Dealer will be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns before sale or delivery of a vehicle.

Owners may be liable for any progressive damage that results from its failure to complete campaigns within a reasonable time after receiving notification.

### Work Instructions

Please refer to the attached work instructions. Prior to performing the campaign, check the vehicle for a completion sticker (Form WAR260 or Form WAR261).

### Replacement Parts

Replacement kits are now available and can be obtained by ordering the kit number(s) listed below from your facing Parts Distribution Center.

# Recall Campaign

January 2008  
 FL514AB  
 NHTSA #07V-530  
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If our records show your dealership has ordered any vehicles involved in campaign number FL514AB, a list of the customers and vehicle identification numbers will be available on AccessFreightliner.com. Please refer to this list when ordering parts for this recall.

**Table 1 - Replacement Parts for FL514**

**IMPORTANT: Please note, the correct the kit number for FL514 is 25-SF373-000.**

Campaign Number	Kit Number	Part Description	Part Number	Qty. per Kit	Suggested Wholesale*
FL514AB	25-SF373-000	Shoulder Bolt	HLD XB11127	1 ea	\$7.94 U.S. \$10.01 CAN
		Washer, 5/8"	HLD XB T 199	1 ea	
		Coupling Decal	HLD XL FW523	1 ea	
		Completion Sticker	WAR260	1 ea	

\* Please charge all Direct Warranty Customers the above-listed price for the kit, as they are authorized to perform their own Recalls.

**Table 1**

## Removed Parts

Please follow Warranty Failed Parts Tracking shipping instructions for the disposition of all removed parts.

## Labor Allowance

**Table 2 - Labor Allowance**

Campaign Number	Procedure	Time Allowed (hours)	SRT Code	Damage Code
FL514AB	Inspect for pin and cotter key (Inspection only, no replacement required)	0.2 hrs	996-0725C	000-Inspected
FL514AB	Replace pivot bolt assembly (Includes inspection for FL514B)	0.3 hrs	996-0725A	000-Modifiedx
FL514B	Inspect for shoulder bolt and washer (Inspection only, no replacement required)	0.3 hrs	996-0725B	000-Inspected

**Table 2**

**IMPORTANT:** When the recall has been completed, locate the base completion label in the appropriate location on the vehicle, and attach the red completion sticker provided in the recall kit (Form WAR260). If the vehicle does not have a base completion label, clean a spot on the appropriate location of the vehicle and first attach the base completion label (Form WAR259). If a recall kit is not required or there is no completion sticker in the kit, write the recall number on a blank sticker and attach it to the base completion label.

## Claims for Credit

You will be reimbursed for your parts, labor, and handling by submitting your claim through the Warranty system within 30 days of completing this campaign. Please reference the following information in QuickClaim®:

- Claim type is **Recall**.
- In the FTL Authorization field, enter the campaign number and appropriate condition code (**FL514A** or **FL514B**).
- In the Primary Failed Part Number field, enter **25-FL514-000**.

# Recall Campaign

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- In the Parts field, enter the appropriate kit number(s) as shown in the Replacement Parts Table. **IMPORTANT: Please note, the correct the kit number for FL514 is 25-SF373-000.**
- In the Labor field, first enter the appropriate SRT from the Labor Allowance Table. For administrative time, enter SRT 939-0010A for 0.3 hours.

Please be aware of the following when working with customers and performing FL514AB:

- **FL514A** – All vehicles in FL514A will be inspected for a pin and cotter key or a hex head pivot bolt with spacer sleeve. If a pin and cotter key is present, no further work is needed. If a hex head pivot bolt with spacer sleeve is present, kit **25-SF373-000** must be installed. Please note the correct kit number.
- **FL514B** – Vehicles in FL514B have been repaired prior to the Recall by SAF Holland. If customers have any concerns, they may have their vehicle inspected upon request to confirm that the new shoulder bolt and washer have been installed. The claim number that is in ServicePro (claim no. "9999999") will be removed so the inspecting dealer can file a claim for the inspection; submit an inquiry to Warranty Campaigns for assistance.

**IMPORTANT:** ServicePro® must be viewed prior to performing the recall to ensure the vehicle is involved and the campaign has not been previously completed. Also, check for a completion sticker prior to beginning work.

Contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, Web inquiry at [AccessFreightliner.com](http://AccessFreightliner.com) / Support / Submit an Inquiry, or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) 385-4357, after normal business hours, if you have any questions or need additional information.

To return excess kit inventory related to this campaign, U.S. dealers must submit a Parts Authorization Return (PAR) to the Memphis PDC. Canadian dealers must submit a PAR to their facing PDC. All kits must be in resalable condition. PAR requests must include the original purchase invoice number.

The letter notifying vehicle owners is included for your reference.

Please note that the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended (Title 49, United States Code, Chapter 301), requires the owner's vehicle(s) be corrected within a reasonable time after parts are available to you. The Act states that failure to repair a vehicle within 60 days after tender for repair shall be prima facie evidence of an unreasonable time. However, circumstances of a particular situation may reduce the 60 day period. Failure to repair a vehicle within a reasonable time can result in either the obligation to (a) replace the vehicle with an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle, without charge, or (b) refund the purchase price in full, less a reasonable allowance for depreciation. The Act further prohibits dealers from selling a vehicle unless all outstanding recalls are performed. Also, any lessor is required to send a copy of the recall notification to the lessee within 10 days.

# Recall Campaign

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FL514AB  
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## Copy of Letter to Owner - FL514AB Subject: Holland Simplex Fifth Wheel Pivot Spacers

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. This notice is also sent in accordance with the Canadian Motor Vehicles Safety Act.

Freightliner LLC, on behalf of its Freightliner Trucks Division and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Sterling Truck Corporation and Western Star Truck Sales, Inc., has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on specific Freightliner Argosy, Business Class M2, Cascadia, Century Class S/T, Columbia, Coronado, and FLD vehicles; Sterling A/L-Line and Acterra vehicles; and Western Star 4900 vehicles manufactured between January 2, 2006, and June 29, 2007.

The latch lever pivot bolt assembly on certain Holland Simplex fifth wheels may have been over-tightened, which may distort the pivot bolt spacer sleeve. In addition, contamination or corrosion in the pivot may cause it to bind, preventing the fifth wheel jaw from latching securely around the trailer king pin. The incomplete latch condition is evident by looking at the fifth wheel coupling indicator on the side of the fifth wheel and inspecting the fifth wheel jaws after coupling to the trailer. Should the fifth wheel fail to latch without the driver's knowledge, the vehicle could be driven away and the trailer could disengage, increasing the risk of a crash.

The existing pivot bolt with spacer sleeve will be replaced with a shoulder bolt and washer.

Parts are now available for authorized dealers to order. Contact your authorized dealer to arrange to have your vehicle(s) modified and to assure that parts are available at the dealer. To locate a dealer, search online at [www.FreightlinerTrucks.com](http://www.FreightlinerTrucks.com), [www.SterlingTrucks.com](http://www.SterlingTrucks.com), [www.WesternStarTrucks.com](http://www.WesternStarTrucks.com), or contact the Warranty Campaigns Department for assistance.

When you contact your dealer, refer to campaign number **FL514AB**. Once kit(s) are received at the dealership, the Recall will take approximately one hour and will be performed at no charge to you.

**IMPORTANT:** When the Recall has been completed, please ensure that a label has been affixed to your vehicle referencing **FL514AB**.

If you do not own the vehicle that corresponds to the identification number(s) which appears on the Recall Notification, please return the notification to the Warranty Campaigns Department with any information you can furnish that will assist us in locating the present owner. If you have leased this vehicle, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to the lessee within 10 days. If you are a subsequent stage manufacturer, Federal law requires that you forward this notice to your distributors and retail outlets within five working days.

If you are not able to have the defect remedied without charge and within a reasonable time, which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle for repair, please contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, e-mail address [WarrantyCampaigns@freightliner.com](mailto:WarrantyCampaigns@freightliner.com), or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours. You may also wish to submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or to <http://www.safercar.gov>. If your vehicle is involved in the Canadian portion, you may wish to notify Transport Canada, ASFAD, Place de Ville Tower C, 330 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5, or phone (800) 333-0510.

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause but feel certain you understand our interest in motor vehicle safety.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

## REVISED NOTICE

### Copy of Additional Letter for FL514B Only

#### Subject: Prior Replacement of Holland Simplex Fifth Wheel Pivot Spacers

SAF Holland USA, Inc. has informed Freightliner LLC that a number of vehicles involved in FL514 were repaired prior to the Recall. Please see the enclosed notice for further information about this Recall.

Your vehicle is part of the group that has already had the new shoulder bolt and washer installed on the fifth wheel.

If your vehicle has already been repaired, no further action is needed on your part. If you do not believe this work has been done or have any concerns, please take your vehicle to an authorized Freightliner LLC dealer to be inspected. The inspection will take approximately one hour and will be performed at no charge to you.

When talking with a dealer, please refer to campaign number **FL514B** and your vehicle identification number.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact the Warranty Campaigns Department at (800) 547-0712, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, e-mail address [WarrantyCampaigns@freightliner.com](mailto:WarrantyCampaigns@freightliner.com), or the Customer Assistance Center at (800) FTL-HELP or (800) STL-HELP, after normal business hours.

WARRANTY CAMPAIGNS DEPARTMENT

Enclosure

# Recall Campaign

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## Work Instructions

### Subject: Holland Simplex Fifth Wheel Pivot Spacers

**Models Affected: Specific Freightliner Argosy, Business Class M2, Cascadia, Century Class S/T, Columbia, Coronado, and FLD vehicles; Sterling A/L-Line and Acterra vehicles; and Western Star 4900 vehicles manufactured between January 2, 2006, and June 29, 2007.**

**IMPORTANT:** Please be aware of the following when working with customers and performing FL514AB:

- **FL514A** – All vehicles in FL514A will be inspected for a pin and cotter key or a hex head pivot bolt with spacer sleeve. If a pin and cotter key is present, no further work is needed. If a hex head pivot bolt with spacer sleeve is present, kit **25-SF373-000** must be installed. Please note the correct kit number.
- **FL514B** – Vehicles in FL514B have been repaired prior to the Recall by SAF Holland. If customers have any concerns, they may have their vehicle inspected upon request to confirm that the new shoulder bolt and washer have been installed. The claim number that is in ServicePro (claim no. "9999999") will be removed so the inspecting dealer can file a claim for the inspection; submit an inquiry to Warranty Campaigns for assistance.
- An inspection and an SRT have been added to address fifth wheels with an older pin and cotter key design. These fifth wheels do not need replacement parts installed.

### Inspection and Installation Procedure

1. Check the base label (Form WAR259) for a completion sticker for FL514 (Form WAR260) or **SF373** (Form WAR261) indicating this work has been done. The base label is usually located on the passenger-side door about 12 inches (30 cm) below the door latch. If a completion sticker is present, no further work is needed. If the completion sticker is not present, proceed with the steps below.

**IMPORTANT:** To complete the pivot bolt inspection and replacement, you need a 4 foot length of 2-by-4, a 2-1/2 inch (64 mm) wide wooden block (a 2-by-4, for example, that has had the long side cut down), a 1 foot length of 4-by-4 wooden block, and a 5/8-inch (16-mm) diameter rod.

### **WARNING**

**All fifth wheel maintenance, adjustment, and rebuilding must be done only by a qualified mechanic. Improper or incomplete procedures could result in a possible disengagement of the trailer from the tractor, which could result in personal injury or property damage. Do not use any fifth wheel that fails to operate properly.**

**Parts are under spring compression. Wear safety goggles while servicing the fifth wheel, and keep fingers away from possible pinch points. Failure to do so can result in personal injury, due to parts ejecting with force.**

2. Shut down the engine, and chock the tires.
3. Lift the rear of the fifth wheel to tilt the front of it downward. Inspect for a pin and cotter key. If a pin and cotter key are present, no further work is needed. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259). Write the Recall number, FL514, on a blank red completion sticker (Form WAR260) and attach it to the base label.

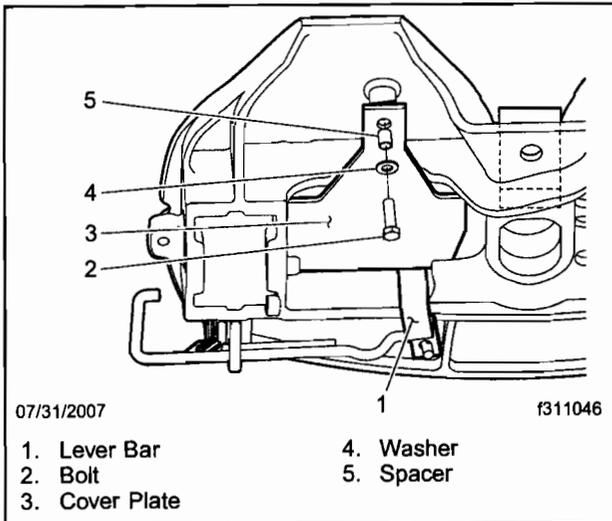
If a hex head bolt is present, proceed with the next step. See **Fig 1**.

4. With the rear of the fifth wheel still lifted, place the 4-by-4 wooden block under the fifth wheel to hold it in the "ramps up" position. See **Fig. 2**.

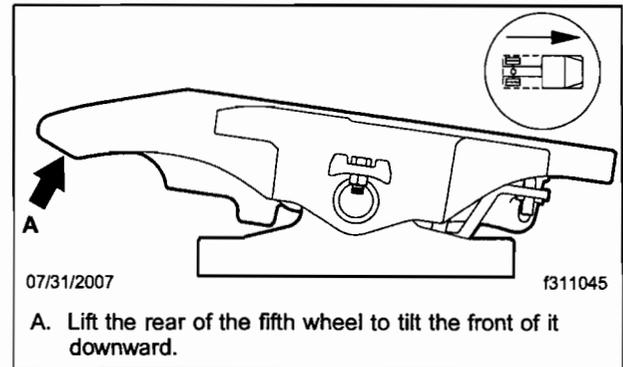
- Using a 4 foot length of 2-by-4, or similar material, trigger the fifth wheel jaw. Ensure that the indicator shows a closed lock and that the lock is closed behind the jaw.

NOTE: Inserting the 2-1/2 inch (64mm) wooden block loads the fifth wheel spring with about 25 lb of pressure, which allows the lever bar, lock, and fifth wheel casting receptacle to be easily aligned.

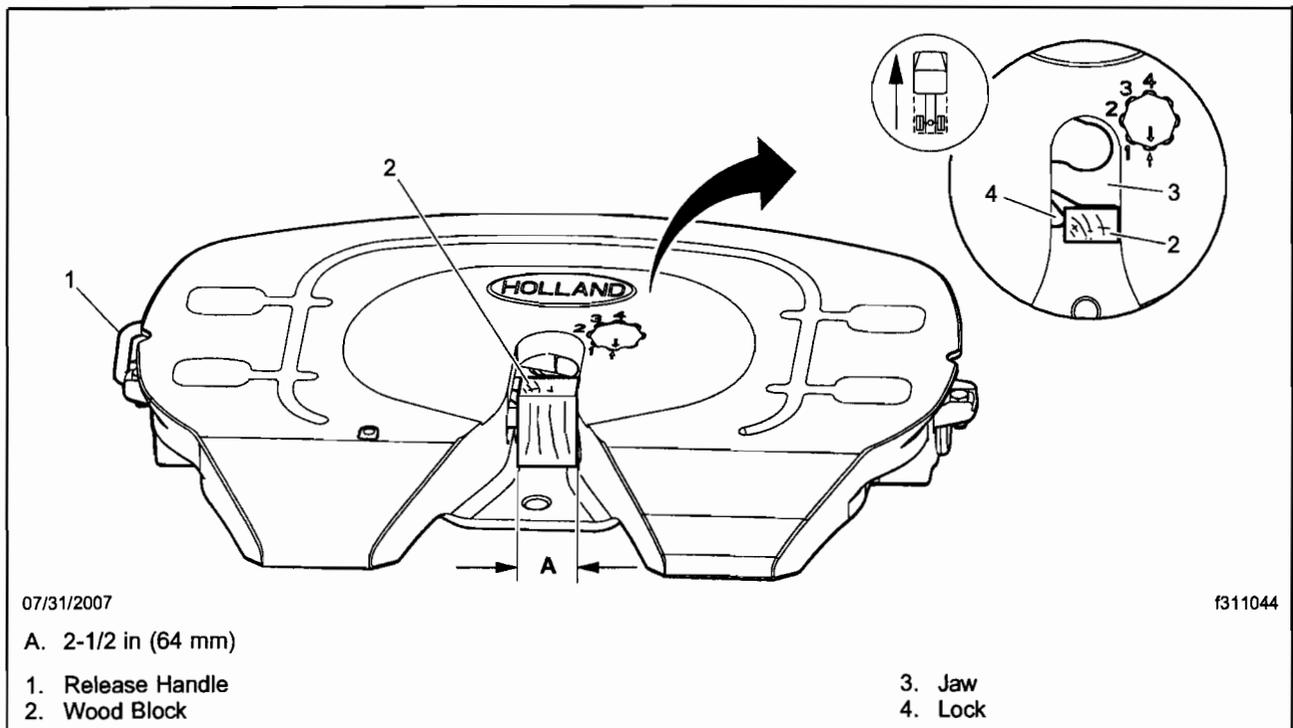
- Pull the release handle outward about 1 inch (25 mm), and insert the 2-1/2 inch (64mm) wooden block. Then allow the release handle to retract so that the nose of the lock contacts the wooden block. See Fig. 3.



**Fig. 1, Fifth Wheel Components**



**Fig. 2, Fifth Wheel Tilted to Access Fasteners**



**Fig. 3, Fifth Wheel with Wood Block in Place**

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- Remove the bolt and inspect to determine if it is the original pivot bolt with spacer sleeve or if it is a shoulder bolt and washer. See **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 5**.

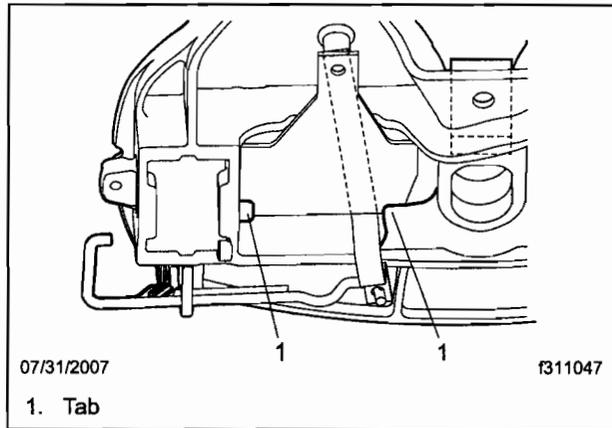
If it is the original pivot bolt with spacer sleeve, the spacer may need to be dislodged using a 5/8-inch (16-mm) diameter rod. Remove and discard the bolt, spacer sleeve, and washer and proceed to step 8.

If it is a shoulder bolt and washer, the correct bolt and washer are being used. Proceed to step 9.

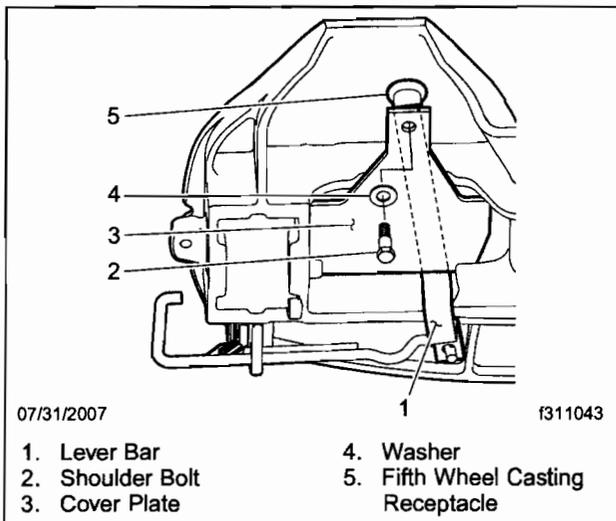
- Place the lever bar in the lock and hold it in place while positioning the corners of the cover plate behind both of the tabs in the fifth wheel casting. See **Fig. 4**.

NOTE: Free play is the allowed vertical movement of components between the bolt and the fifth wheel casting receptacle.

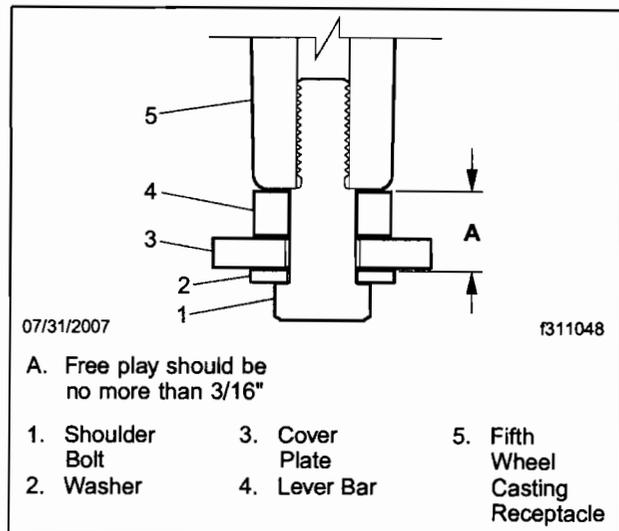
- Install the new shoulder bolt and washer from the kit, or if the vehicle already contains the correct shoulder bolt, reinstall the existing shoulder bolt and washer ensuring that the bolt passes through the holes in the cover plate and lever bar and into the threaded fifth wheel casting receptacle. Then tighten the shoulder bolt until there is no more than 3/16 inch of free play in the component stack (washer, cover plate, and lever bar), and use a torque wrench to tighten the bolt to 80 lbf·ft (108 N·m). See **Fig. 5** and **Fig. 6**.



**Fig. 4, Tabs in the Fifth Wheel Casting**



**Fig. 5, Fifth Wheel Components Including Replacement Parts**



A. Free play should be no more than 3/16"

- |                  |                |                                   |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Shoulder Bolt | 3. Cover Plate | 5. Fifth Wheel Casting Receptacle |
| 2. Washer        | 4. Lever Bar   |                                   |

**Fig. 6, Component Stack**

10. Ensure that the lever bar and cover plate can move freely up and down the shoulder bolt. See **Fig. 6**.

If they cannot move freely, or there is more than 3/16 inch of free play, remove the shoulder bolt and washer and reinstall them as described in steps 8 and 9 of this procedure.

11. Remove both of the wooden blocks and return the fifth wheel to the normal operating position.

12. Using a lock adjustment tool, or 4 foot length of 2-by-4 to trigger the latch, open and close the fifth wheel three times to verify whether it is functioning properly.

If the fifth wheel fails to properly latch or unlatch, verify the following:

- The lever bar and cover plate can move freely up and down on the shoulder bolt; there should be 3/16 or less of free play.
- The washer, cover plate, and lever bar are in the correct order; see **Fig. 6**.
- The lever bar is correctly seated in the lock.
- The cover plate is situated behind both of the tabs in the fifth wheel casting. See **Fig. 4**.

NOTE: As necessary, remove the shoulder bolt and washer, and reinstall them as described in steps 8 and 9 of this procedure.

13. If installing a kit, find a location on the web of a frame rail between the back of the cab and the front of the fifth wheel that is frequently observed by the driver and is appropriate for the coupling decal (HLD XL FW523) provided in the campaign kit. Clean and thoroughly dry the area, then apply the coupling decal.

14. Clean a spot on the base label (Form WAR259). Write the Recall number, FL514, on a blank red completion sticker (Form WAR260) and attach it to the base label.

15. Remove the chocks from the tires.