

(Section 573.6)

FL-806 Revised

Date of Submission: February 7, 2019

Manufacturer: Daimler Trucks North America LLC
P.O. BOX 3849
Portland, Oregon 97208

Type of Report: **Safety Defect** **Non-Compliance**

Vehicle Information

Model Yr. Start: 2018 **Model Yr. End:** 2020
Make: Freightliner
Model: Cascadia
Production Dates: **Begin:** September 11, 2017
 End: January 30, 2019

Descriptive Information:

Vehicles built within a specified date range equipped with an optional steering wheel air bag.

Number potentially involved: 3,365 *Estimated percentage of involved with defect: 0.1 %*

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

Under certain circumstances, an unintended deployment of the steering wheel air bag may occur. Currently, the root cause for this issue is still under investigation. The unintended steering wheel air bag deployment may be triggered by a damaged steering wheel clockspring, which may be caused when certain electrical grounds are improperly assembled.

If a noncompliance, provide the applicable FMVSS:

NA

Describe the safety risk:

An inadvertent driver air bag deployment may cause risk of injury to the driver and might increase the risk of a potential crash.

If applicable, identify the manufacture of the defective or noncompliant component. N/A

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision:

On December 11, 2017, DTNA received a report of an unintended steering wheel air bag deployment on an undelivered vehicle. From December 2017 through May 2018, DTNA conducted an extensive investigation into the issue, attempting to understand and duplicate the conditions occurring at the time of deployment without success. In October 2018, DTNA received a report of a second unintended steering wheel air bag deployment. DTNA investigated this second occurrence in light of warranty data it had received regarding melted steering wheel clocksprings and steering wheel grounding issues, which was unavailable at the time the first event was investigated. Using the results of the inspection of this second vehicle and the parts returned to DTNA, DTNA reexamined the records of the first event and found similar conditions. While still under investigation, it is possible that incorrectly attached electrical grounds can allow current to damage the steering wheel clockspring and, in certain conditions, cause the airbag to deploy. While the sources of the high current in the two events have not been identified, on November 5, 2018, out of an abundance of caution, DTNA decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall, FL800, on certain vehicles equipped with steering wheel air bags.

Since the original recall filing DTNA has attained additional information including a report in December, 2018, DTNA received report of unintended air bag deployment on vehicle that was built with the original production remedy fix program applied. Subsequently in January 2019 a vehicle inspection and investigation revealed that the original remedy may not prevent unintended deployment. January 31, 2019, out of an abundance of caution, DTNA decided to issue a recall superseding FL800 and providing a remedy effective for the original and additional conditions. The population will include both the previous population of vehicles as well as those built after the original production containment date.

Identify the Remedy

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacture's plan for reimbursement.

DTNA will remove the airbag in the interim. DTNA will implement a new and revised remedy program, which when available, will be communicated to customers and dealers.

Identify the Recall Schedule

Describe the recall schedule for notifications:

Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.

Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date: *March 31, 2019*

Planned Dealer Notification End Date: *March 31, 2019*

Planned Owner Notification Begin Date: *March 31, 2019*

Planned Owner Notification End Date: *March 31, 2019*

Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable): *FL-806*

DTNA Representative;



Andy Jones
Manager
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs