

Defect Information Report

(Section 573.6)

FL-862

Date of Submission: *Sept 3, 2020*

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: 2020 Model Yr. End: 2021

Make: *Freightliner, Western Star*

Model: 114SD, 122SD, 4700, 4900

Production Dates: Begin: 11/29/2019

End: 08/06/2020

Descriptive Information:

Vehicles equipped with certain SL2065 steerable lift axles, as identified in Watson & Chalin Manufacturing, Inc. (W&C) equipment recall 20E-055, manufactured within the mentioned production dates noted above.

Number potentially involved: 70

Estimated percentage involved with defect: 66%

Defect / Noncompliance Description

For this Defect/Noncompliance:

Describe the defect or noncompliance:

As per W&C NHTSA 20E-055, "Lower rear pivot cap screws may not be long enough to be sufficiently engage the locking feature of the corresponding nuts".

If a noncompliance, provide the applicable FMVSS

Describe the safety risk:

W&C states per NHTSA 20E-055, "In some cases, the above-referenced condition may cause a loss of clamp load of the corresponding pivot joint. Extended use of the suspension in this condition can result in the fracture or loss of the cap screw and related washers and nut. This can further result in foreign object debris on the roadway, increasing the risk of a crash and/or injury. W&C has not received any field reports of accidents due to a cap screw fracture or loss".

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination**Provide the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision:**

Late July 2020, DTNA received a notification from W&C regarding a potential suspension concern. DTNA opened an investigation. August 2020, W&C's investigation revealed that insufficient thread engagement of the pivot cap screw might lead to compromised operation of the suspension system over time. August 2020, W&C notified DTNA of NHTSA filing 20E-055. Late August, 2020 W&C provided DTNA with a list of affected axle serial numbers, and were able to confirm that DTNA product was part of the suspect population. August 28, 2020, DTNA decided to conduct a safety recall on the vehicles equipped with certain steerable lift axles.

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

Inspect the suspensions and determine whether the lower rear pivot cap screws meet the thread engagement criteria for the respective nuts. Repair if the threshold is not met. Customer notification will be done by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected. Copies of the reimbursement plan will be submitted as a supplemental report when available.

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:	11/01/2020
Planned Dealer Notification End Date:	11/01/2020
Planned Owner Notification Begin Date:	11/01/2020
Planned Owner Notification End Date:	11/01/2020
Manufacture's identification code for this recall (if applicable):	FL-862

DTNA Representative;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Stoffels", enclosed within a faint rectangular border.

Larissa Stoffels

Executive Manager, Vehicle Safety
Compliance and Regulatory Affairs