Part 573 Safety Recall Report 21V-481

Manufacturer Name : Daimler Trucks North America, LLC
Submission Date : JUN 25, 2021
NHTSA Recall No. : 21V-481
Manufacturer Recall No. : FL-893

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Daimler Trucks North America, LLC
Address : 4747 N. Channel Avenue
Portland OR 97217-3849
Company phone : 800-745-8000

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 122,056
Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2019-2022 Freightliner Cascadia P4
Vehicle Type :
Body Style :
Power Train : NR
Descriptive Information : Freightliner Cascadia trucks and Western Star vehicles equipped with aluminum battery cables.
Production Dates : APR 28, 2018 - JUN 02, 2021
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2021-2021 Western Star WH126
Vehicle Type :
Body Style :
Power Train : NR
Descriptive Information : Freightliner Cascadia trucks and Western Star vehicles equipped with aluminum battery cables.
Production Dates : AUG 20, 2020 - OCT 01, 2020
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2020-2020 Western Star WJ121
Vehicle Type :
Body Style :
Power Train : NR
Descriptive Information : Freightliner Cascadia trucks and Western Star vehicles equipped with aluminum battery cables.
Production Dates : MAR 21, 2019 - MAR 21, 2019
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 4 :	2021-2022 Western Star 49X
Vehicle Type :	
Body Style :	
Power Train :	NR
Descriptive Information :	Freightliner Cascadia trucks and Western Star vehicles equipped with aluminum battery cables.
Production Dates :	FEB 12, 2020 - MAY 27, 2021
VIN Range 1 :	Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect :	On certain vehicles, the battery cable terminal at the frame connecting point may break resulting loss of electrical power and unintended engine shut down without warning.
FMVSS 1 :	NR
FMVSS 2 :	NR
Description of the Safety Risk :	Unintended engine shut down without warning may result in a vehicle being stalled on the roadway which could increase the risk of a vehicle crash.
Description of the Cause :	NR
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	NR

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 :	Power Cables
Component Description :	Positive and Negative Power Cables
Component Part Number :	Multiple Parts

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	Auto Kabel de Mexico SA de CV
Address :	Parque Industrial, Av. Hermanos Escobar Ciudad Juárez Foreign States 32320
Country :	Mexico

Chronology :

In or about January 2021, DTNA received a single field report of unintended vehicle shutdown while in motion due to a broken battery cable. In or about March 2021, DTNA received another field report of positive battery cable separation at the 90 degree frame terminal and promptly began an investigation by, among other things, seeking to identify potentially similar incidents and seeking supplier analysis. In April 2021, DTNA received a failed part analysis report from the supplier. As a result, DTNA reviewed relevant warranty rate data to assess the matter. In or about May 2021, DTNA's cross-functional team was tasked to conduct a battery cable test evaluation. Test reports suggested that mating two incompatible galvanic materials, Aluminum and Brass, and not sealing them appropriately increases the likelihood of debris intrusion, which in turn may cause progressive damage to the weld joint area. However, at this time, DTNA lacked information sufficient to determine if a defect existed or in what population it existed. In or about June 2021, supplier process investigation revealed that the current procedure doesn't involve preheating of the joint before application of the wrap and due to that, it may not achieve a required surface bond which would be enough to prevent debris intrusion. Field input disclosed that the largest portion of these events are occurring outside of warranty and parts are being replaced by customers with dealer made copper cables, further complicating DTNA's effort to understand if there was a defect observed in the field and, if so, what was the population. That said, DTNA's estimates indicated a rate of occurrence significantly below 1%. Despite the uncertainty and the low rate of occurrence, out of an abundance of caution, on June 21, 2021, DTNA reasonably decided to conduct a voluntary recall as set forth in this report.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	The subject Aluminum battery cables on the affected vehicles will be inspected for corrosion and/or damage and will be repaired or replaced with Copper cables accordingly. 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.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	NR
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	Customer notification will be made by first class mail using Daimler Trucks North America records to determine the customers affected.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	AUG 23, 2021 - AUG 23, 2021
Planned Owner Notification Date :	AUG 23, 2021 - AUG 23, 2021

* NR - Not Reported