



April 7, 2003

TO: All Coachmen RV Company Dealers

RE: Compliance Recall 03V-040

Dear Coachmen Dealer:

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

Coachmen has decided that the brake system warning indicator that Ford Motor Company provides in the dash instrument panel of their F53 Class A Motorhome Chassis does not conform to the requirements specified in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 105 S5.3. Affected units were manufactured by Ford Motor Company from May 13, 1999 through October 22, 2002.

On affected vehicles, the instrument panel, as shipped by Ford to Coachmen RV Company, may not be wired correctly to illuminate the brake warning indicator for a check indicator function and/or low brake fluid condition. The brake warning indicator is intended to illuminate when the ignition key is turned to the ON, RUN, or START position and/or when the brake fluid is low. FMVSS No. 105 S5.3 specifies that this check of the brake warning indicator function and the low brake fluid indication be provided. The absence of this indicator function could lead to brake failure and crash without warning.

Owners of suspect units will be notified in a letter instructing them to contact their selling or nearest Coachmen dealer to schedule an appointment to have the necessary repairs performed to the instrument panel. A copy of this letter is attached for your reference.

Please find attached complete repair instructions as supplied by Ford Motor Company. Information relating to the preparation and submission of claims for reimbursement can also be found attached.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact your Regional Service manager at 1-888-516-3569.

Sincerely,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

Attachments

April 7, 2003

Dear Coachmen Owner:

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

Coachmen has decided that the brake system warning indicator that Ford Motor Company provides in the dash instrument panel of your Class A motorhome does not conform to the requirements specified in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 105 S5.3. Affected units were manufactured by Ford Motor Company from May 18, 1999 through October 22, 2002.

DEFECT

On affected vehicles, the instrument panel, as shipped by Ford to Coachmen RV Company, may not be wired correctly to illuminate the brake warning indicator for a check indicator function and/or low brake fluid condition. The brake warning indicator is intended to illuminate when the ignition key is turned to the ON, RUN, or START position and/or when the brake fluid is low. FMVSS No. 105 S5.3 specifies that this check of the brake warning indicator function and the low brake fluid indication be provided. The absence of this indicator function could lead to brake failure and crash without warning.

REPAIRS

PLEASE TAKE YOUR UNIT PROMPTLY TO THE NEAREST COACHMEN DEALER. At no charge to you, the Coachmen dealer will perform the necessary modifications to the instrument panel assembly to make the brake warning indicator functional in accordance with FMVSS requirements. The required modifications should not take more than 1 hour.

REFUNDS

If you have paid to have this service performed prior to receiving this notice you can receive a full refund. Please mail your paid original invoice or receipt to Coachmen RV Service, P.O. Box 1000, Middlebury, Indiana 46540.

CHANGED ADDRESS OR SOLD THE VEHICLE?

Please fill out the enclosed pre-paid postcard and mail it to us if you have changed your address or sold the vehicle.

Any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If your dealer does not make the required repair promptly and without charge, you may contact Coachmen Customer Service at 1-800-453-6064. You also may contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

We regret the inconvenience this situation may have caused you. However, Coachmen RV Company and Ford Motor Company believe in the early detection and immediate correction of potential concerns. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

3. Remove the tape and the convolute from the C250A and C250C harnesses up to the point they join the main harness. Retain the convolute. It will be reinstalled. See Figure 2.

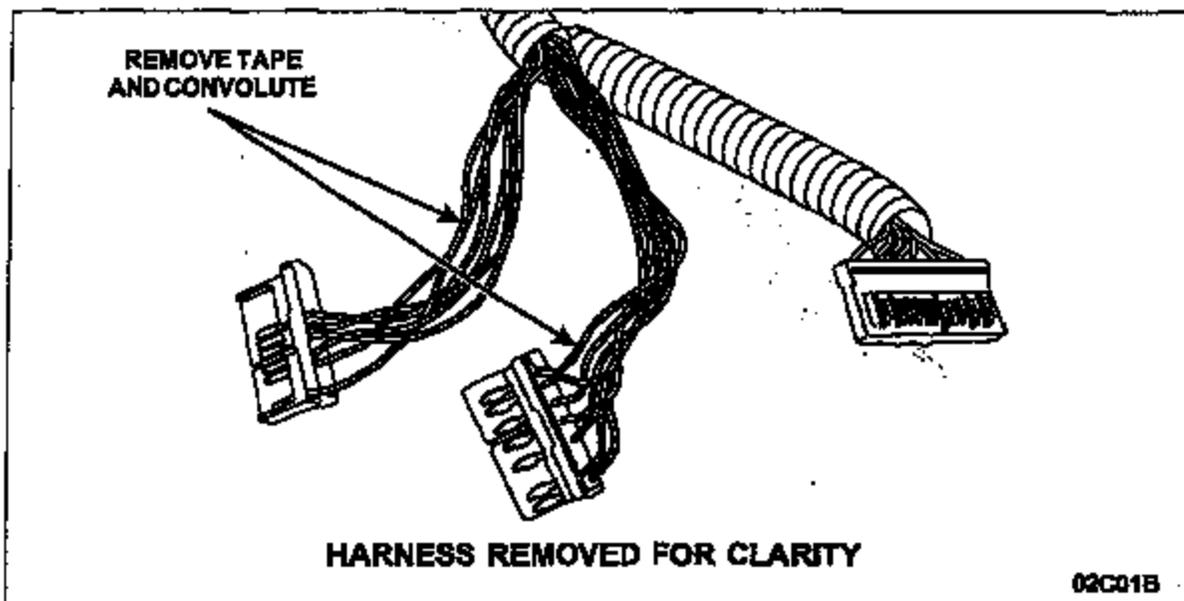


FIGURE 2



CAUTION!

DO NOT reference the published wiring diagrams as the information for these particular connectors may not be correct.

4. Open the black 12-pin connector locking clamp. See Figure 3.

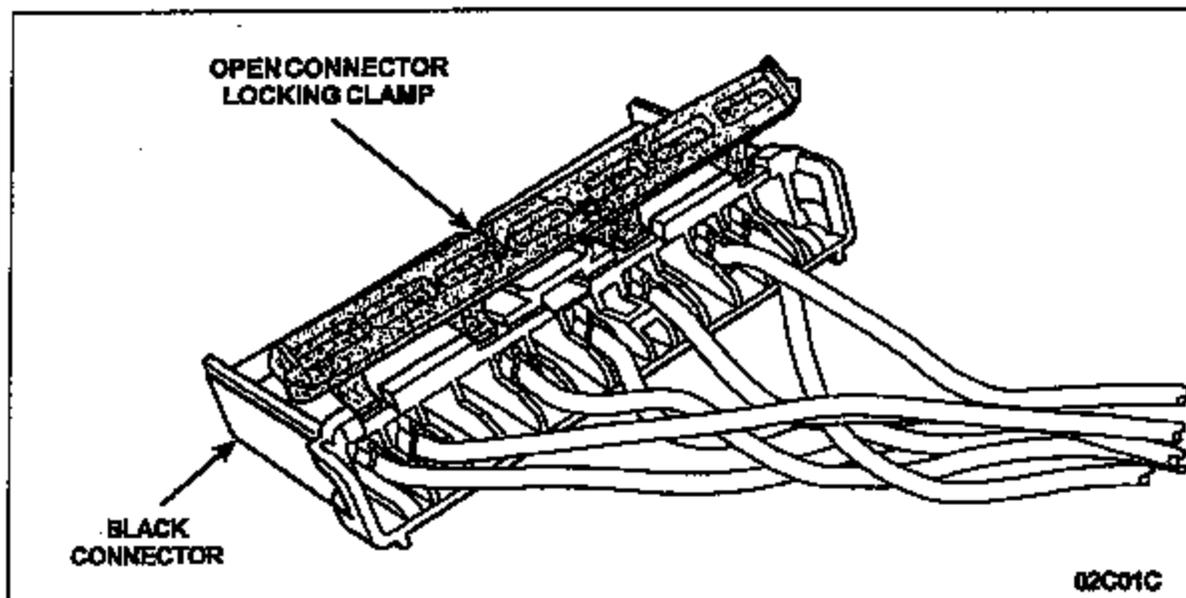


FIGURE 3

5. Remove the VIOLET/WHITE wire from cavity No. 3 by pushing the small release tab and pulling the wire out of the cavity. Then, close the locking clamp. See Figure 4.

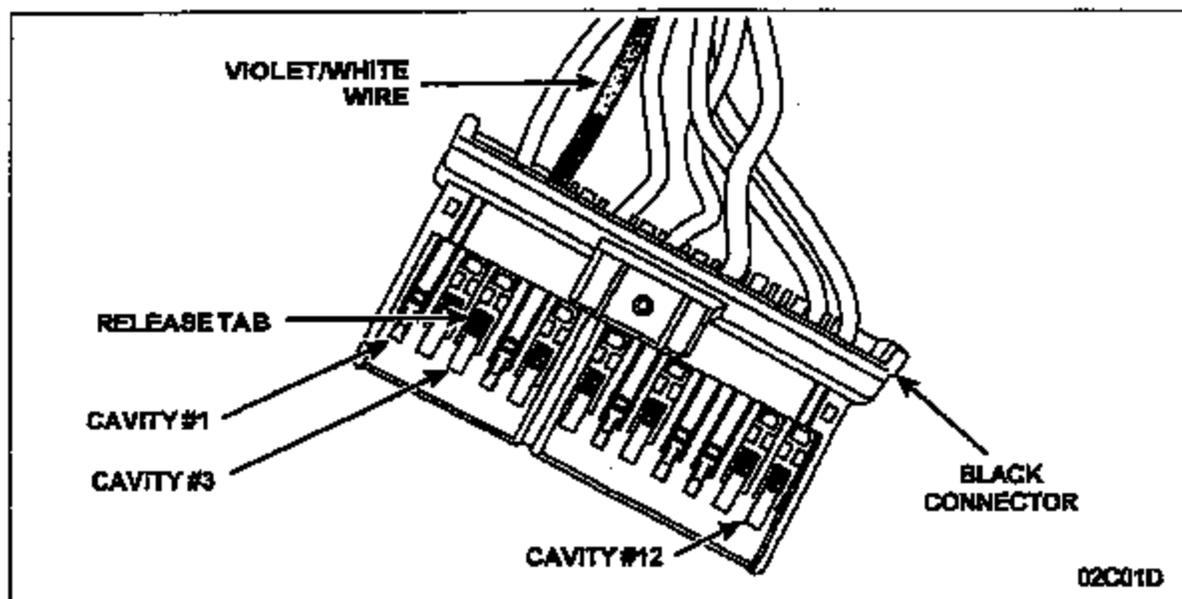


FIGURE 4

6. Open the white 12-pin connector locking clamp and install the VIOLET/WHITE wire into cavity No. 10. Pull the white wire with light force to make sure it is fully seated. Then, close the locking clamp. See Figure 5.

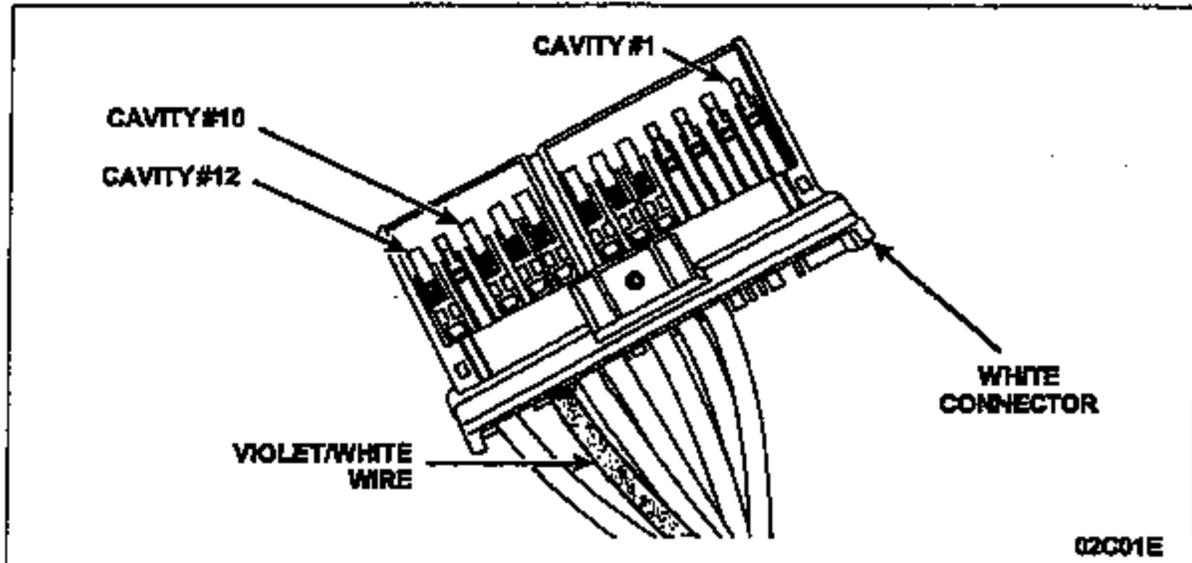


FIGURE 5

7. Install the convolutes and retape both harnesses.
8. Remove the bulb from the "BRAKE" socket and transfer it to the vacant "BRK" socket located on the opposite side of the cluster. See Figure 6.

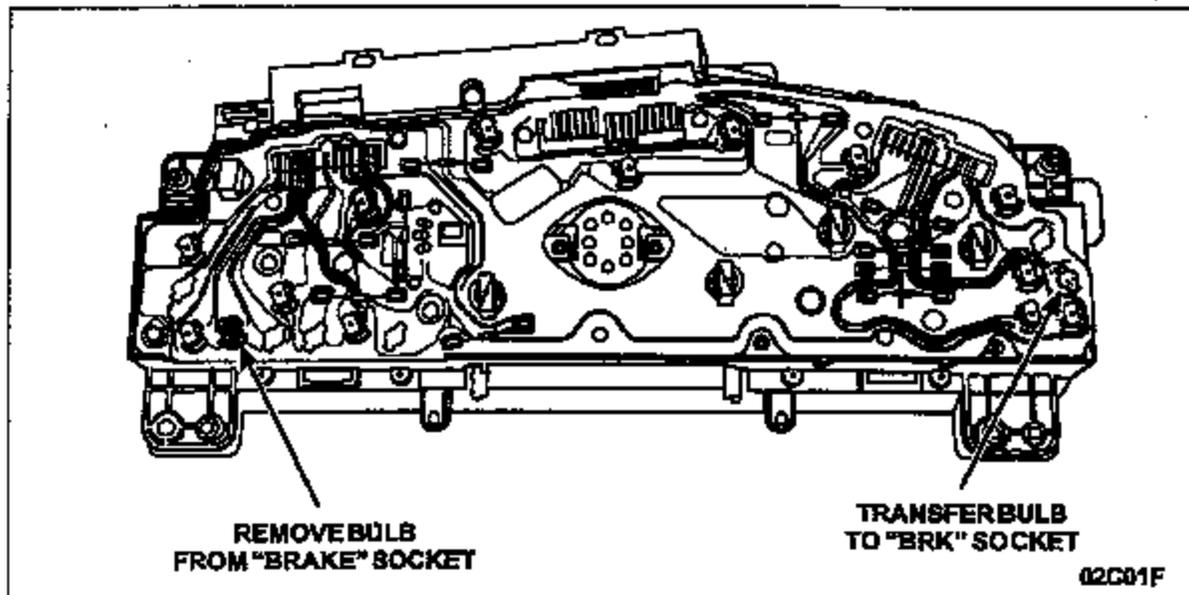


FIGURE 6

CLAIM FILING PROCEDURE

1. Complete all information required on a Coachmen warranty claim.
2. Use program code RE 011.
3. Use condition code 49.
4. Use the following flat rate codes:

7598Z - 1.0 hr.
5. Claim materials under the parts section of the claim.
6. Submit the completed claim to Coachmen RV Company electronically through Coach-Link "On-Line" or by mail.