



ODI RESUME

Department
of Transportation
National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

INVESTIGATION: RQ00-
SUBJECT: Disproportionate Axle Weight on Slide-out Equipped Motorhomes
PROMPTED BY: Safety Recall 99V-277
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: **Nha Nguyen**

DATE OPENED:

MANUFACTURER: Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc.
MODEL(S): Motorhomes Equipped with Slide Out Sections
MODEL YEAR(S): 1996-2000 VEHICLE POPULATION: TBD

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: Excessive loading and the distribution of the loads can cause tire and suspension overload and failure, which could lead to loss of control of the vehicle and increase the likelihood of a crash.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | MANUFACTURER | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| COMPLAINTS: | 2 | Unknown | 2 |
| CRASHES: | 0 | " | " |
| INJ CRASHES: | 0 | " | " |
| # INJURIES: | 0 | " | " |
| FAT CRASHES: | 0 | " | " |
| # FATALS: | 0 | " | " |
| OTHER: | 0 | " | " |

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER:

ACTION: Open an RQ investigation.

ENGINEER: _____ DIV CHF: _____ OFC DIR: _____

DATE

DATE

DATE

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SUBJECT: Fleetwood Enterprises filed a Defect Information Report dated October 5, 1999, to address 'disproportionate front axle loading' in 1996-2000 model year American Eagle, American Dream, and American Tradition Class A motorhomes. These motorhomes can have one or two slide out sections. Fleetwood issued the recall after an investigation conducted by Fleetwood in response to a second fatal accident involving an American Coach product in September 1999. They discovered that one side of the axle may have more weight than the other, increasing the risk that the tire on that side may fail.

ODI has received two complaints on Bounder Class A motorhomes equipped with slide out sections and manufactured by Fleetwood, which describe similar disproportionate axle loading. Both owners identify the left side with the slide out, as the heavier side.

The subject vehicles are those motorhomes equipped with slide out sections, in which the owner can extend part of the side or rear of the motorhome outward from the vehicle. This would increase the weight on the side the slide out is located. This investigation is opened to evaluate the problem experience, scope, and the impact of slide out sections on disproportionate axle loading.