

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE AND COURIER

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590
FAX: 202-366-7882



Re: **Defect Information Report**

On October 29, 2009 Roadtrek Motorhomes Inc. concluded that a defect exists which relates to the installation of a battery tray in Roadtrek class "B" Sprinter RSAD, SSAD, RSAF and SSAF model motorhomes built between November 09, 2007 and September 30th, 2009, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1. Manufacturer: Roadtrek Motorhomes Inc.
(formerly Home & Park Motorhomes)
100 Shirley Ave.
Kitchener, ON N2B 2E1

Designated Agent: Angelo Ingrassia.
Joe Cecconi's Chrysler Complex
2380 Military Road
Niagara Falls, NY, 13404

Manufacturer's Contact Person: Alex Nastasescu P.Eng.
Engineering Mgr.
Phone: 519-745-1169/1120
Fax: 519-745-1170

2. Vehicles affected by this defect are 2007, 2008 and 2009 class "B" Motorhomes, Roadtrek RSAD, SSAD, RSAF and SSAF models, built on Chrysler Sprinter van chassis. (A complete list of VINs for units which may be affected is available)
3. A total of 520 vehicles may contain the defect. The vehicles may have zero clearance between the battery/battery tray and a brake line.
4. It is estimated that 10% of the total population could have the necessary circumstances required to bring about this defect and failure. The recall will cover 100% of the units built by Roadtrek Motorhomes Inc. from November 9, 2007 to September 30, 2009.

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5. The recall pertains to the installation of the auxiliary/coach batteries on the vehicle chassis. The brake line comes in close proximity to the battery/battery tray. Due to some variation in brake line length coming from the chassis manufacturer and some inconsistency in the battery assembly process in some units there is zero clearance between the battery/battery tray and the brake line. This situation can cause friction/rubbing between the battery/battery tray and the brake line which can damage the coating on the line and expose the bare steel. Adding to the circumstances is when a battery is overfilled there is a risk of acid spillage out of the top of the battery while the vehicle is in motion. The acid can then get between the battery and the brake line and in time it can soften the brake line coating. Under the acid attack the brake line can corrode and create pin holes in the material. Once the pin hole is created the system will leak and it will affect the ability to brake on all 4 wheels.
6. The determination of the defect is based on in house investigation of customer call logs.
7. All vehicles will need to be inspected for brake line location and corrosion in the problem area and the line replaced if required. If the brake line is OK the dealer must ensure that there is adequate clearance (min 3/8") between the line and the battery/battery tray. After replacement or adjusting the brake line clearance all of the wire harnesses, vacuum lines, etc. that had to be moved to access the brake line need to be returned to their original position. All of the electrical wires must be bundled together properly. Electrical wiring and the vacuum line must not be touching the battery post or any other part of the battery that can get hot during the charging process.
8. The owners and dealers of the affected vehicles will be notified by mail and phone in the next few weeks.

Yours truly,

ROADTREK MOTORHOMES INC.



Doug Porter
Quality, Service and Warranty Manager

cc: Jim Hammill, President
Alex Nastasescu, Engineering Manager
Angelo Ingrassia, Designated Agent