

419 West Pike Street, PO Box 629, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0629

September 8, 2010

**VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

10V-407
(2 Pages)

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Thor Motor Coach
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain motorhomes manufactured by Thor Motor Coach were built with a defect that has been determined to be safety related.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The motorhomes built with the safety defect are as follows:

<u>Brand Name</u>	<u>Model Name</u>	<u>Model Years Affected</u>
Damon	Challenger 356	2007
Damon	Challenger 368	2009-2011
Damon	Challenger 376	2007-2011
Damon	Challenger 378	2008-2010
Damon	Intruder 391	2005-2007

These motorhomes were built between April 16, 2004 and September 1, 2010. The total number of motorhomes subject to this recall campaign is 271.

- B. Description of Defect. Potentially all of the motorhomes subject to this recall campaign do not have the proper clearance between the rear suspension leaf spring and the vehicle LP fuel tank. As the suspension travels it is possible for the leaf spring shackle bolt to come in contact with the LP tank. This potentially could puncture the lp tank and result in a fire or explosion. In the event of a fire or explosion, there is a potential for property damage, personal injury or death. To date, only minor property damage has been reported (with no property damage claims). There have been no reports of injuries or fatalities.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Thor Motor Coach was notified by a dealer of the lack of clearance between the leaf spring bolt and the LP tank. Upon further investigation at Thor Motor Coach's manufacturing facility it was discovered that the potential exists for the LP tank to be located too far inboard in the vehicle thus decreasing the clearance between the bolt and the LP tank.

- D. Remediying of Defect. The Recall campaign to be implemented by Thor Motor Coach to remedy the safety defect will include notification to all registered owners of the subject motorhomes, including but not limited to all dealers with such motorhomes in their inventory. The motorhomes will be inspected to see if the proper clearance between the shackle bolt and the LP tank exists. If it is found there is not enough clearance, the tank will be relocated outboard in the motorhome to provide the proper clearance. In the event that the bolt and tank have come in contact, the LP tank will be replaced with a new tank and be properly installed in the motorhome. As will be set forth in the registered owner notification letter, this defect will be corrected by Thor Motor Coach at no expense to the owner.
- E. Owner Notifications. Thor Motor Coach will notify owners of the motorhomes of the safety defect. A copy of the Owner's notification letter is attached for approval.
- F. Dealer Notifications. Thor Motor Coach will notify all Thor Motor Coach dealers of the safety defect. A copy of the Dealer's notification letter will be sent shortly for approval.
- G. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Thor Motor Coach will be filing quarterly reports as required by Part 573.7 of Title 49 the Code of Federal Regulations.
- H. Campaign Number. Thor Motor Coach's internal campaign number for this recall is RC000018.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Thor Motor Coach with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Thor Motor Coach in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363 or contact Thor Motor Coach directly at 877-855-2867.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager