

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

On Sept. 27th 2011, 2011, Open Range R.V. [MFR] decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with **49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports**.

Date this report was prepared: Sept. 27th 2011 _____

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): n/a, will use the NHTSA issued recall #. _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Open Range R.V. Company. 3195 N SR 5 Shipshewna, IN 46565

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Open Range R.V. Company. Curtis W. Carlson Warranty/Customer Service Manager. 260-768-7771x117 or ccarlson@openrangerv.com

Telephone Number: 260-768-7771x117 Cell 260-503-4416 **Fax No.:** 260-768-4890

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Curtis Carlson

Customer Service/Warranty Manager

Signed:

¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Open Range Journeyer _____ **Model Years Involved:** 2010-2011 _____ **Model(s):**
JT340FLR _____

Production Dates: Beginning: 8/27/2009 _____ **Ending:** 11/17/2010 _____

VIN Range: Beginning: 5XMTJ3623A50018047 _____ **Ending:**
_5XMTJ3629B5004644 _____

Vehicle Type: R.V. bumper Pull Trailer _____ **Bodystyle:** Travel Trailer _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

A main supporting cross member in front of and behind the axle box/spring hangers was cut out to run an lp line. We are starting from the first one built. I found that there was a print change that moved the fresh water tank below floor and changed the existing print at that time that added another cross member to the frame that eliminates all JT 340FLR's manufactured after 11/17/2010

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period. _____ 100% of the JT 340FLR manufactured from 8/27/2009 thru 11/17/2010 could possibly be affected by this issue.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 207

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: really up in the air at this point. don't know until they start getting inspected by our dealers once this recall has progressed.

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

I had a couple complaints of units swaying, JT340FLR was the model in question. We had a couple inspections done and found that the I beams of the frame had cracks, we dropped the underbelly and did not notice anything out of the ordinary. At this point we would authorize a dealer to add a cross support and patch the cracks on the I beam. We had one that scheduled back here to our facility for some warranty work and also the same complaint as I have listed above. At that point Open Range called Lippert out to inspect the issue with the frame found out that there was a cross member (angle iron support) cut out and it looked as if Open Range R.V. cut the member. I realized that I should look into this further. I found that the initial print we had on this frame had these two angle iron cross supports in front of and behind the spring hanger/axle box. This print was modified at a later date to move the fresh water tank from the above floor design to the below floor design and this happen to add a full support in the frame that eliminated the angle iron cross members at that point. that is one of the reasons we were unaware of the issue because of that change, we didn't think they

were suppose to be there at first glance so them being gone raised no red flags. After further research found that an lp line was running right through one of those members and it looked as if that member had been cut out to accommodate. This print I received yesterday confirmed the issue helped me narrow down the vin range listed above. I have went from the date of the last print revision to the very first JT340FLR built.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

It has come to our attention that there were angle iron cross supports installed in front and behind the axle box for the side to side structural support of the frame. We just had one here in our service dept. and found that someone in our production cut out the angle iron to run an lp gas line. This can cause stress cracks on the I beams on both sides of the trailers.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Our production dept. cut the angle iron support out to run an LP line.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Dangerous sway during pull, possible roll over causing accident, personal injury or death.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

A lot of sway and motion on the trailer while towing.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

We purchase these frames from Lippert components.

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Andrew VanSchoick Director of warranty

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

- 6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**
- 7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.**

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

Remedy is to drop the underbelly of the R.V. in question to inspect the frame for any missing cross supports. At that point if they are missing some structure will have to be added in to repair. Open Range R.V. will put some illustrated instructions together to send out to our dealers. I will also start on a retail and dealer letter that I will send to you for approval.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

Remedy is to weld the supports needed into the frame cavity or to the rear just in front of and behind the axle box. The repaired coach will have added cross structure the frame.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Cross supports added.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

A print change that took place from an unrelated issue. the production repair or change is virtually identical, the only difference would be the actual cross support used.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

I will start on an address list for dealers and retails asap! I will be typing up a letter to submit for approval.i really do not see any issues with implementing this recall. Should be cut and dry and very easy to repair.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to mailing.

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.