



January 3, 2001

RECEIVED
JAN 12 - 9 AM 10:00
OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Mr. Jon White
Office Defects Investigation
National Hwy. Traffic Safety Admin.
400 Seventh St. S.W., Room 5319
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. White:

Enclosed are copies of the quarterly reports submitted to Section 5735 of Part 573 Code of Federal Regulations/National Traffic Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has started a recall campaign. *00V-273.004*

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has been informed that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in Minnie®, Spirit®, Minnie Winnie®, Sundancer®, Brave®, Brave® SE, Sunrise®, Sunrise® SE, Adventurer®, Suncruiser®, Chieftain®, Sunflyer®, Winnebago Journey™, Itasca Horizon®, Ultimate Advantage®, and Ultimate Freedom®. Lap belts with a defective buckle may be installed in motor homes built between January 14, 2000 and September 15, 2000. Some belt assemblies shipped to Winnebago® had damaged or deformed areas on the pawl. The deformation is such that during engagement, the connector may be unable to transfer the load to the buckle. In some cases, this can cause the buckle to unlatch and leave the occupant unrestrained.

Winnebago Industries® started the notification on October 20, 2000 and it was completed on November 3, 2000. Copies of the letters and instructions are enclosed.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has started a recall campaign.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has determined that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain Winnebago motor homes equipped with Freightliner® chassis. These vehicles were manufactured between October 2, 1999 and July 25, 2000. The front axle and/or front tires of the vehicle may encounter unequal side-to-side loading due to inappropriate loading or the leveling device of the vehicle becoming improperly adjusted. Should this occur, one or more of the front axle components may fail and personal injury and/or property damage may result.

Winnebago Industries started the notification on December 8, 2000 and it was completed on December 22, 2000. Copies of the letters and instructions are enclosed.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has finished three consecutive quarterly reports on Recall 00V-052. Enclosed is the list of incomplete units on this recall.

This information is for your files.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Bindel
Recall Coordinator

WR84/1

Enclosures



TO: Winnebago®, Itasca®, and Ultimate™ Dealers

SUBJECT: Campaign #76 - Am-Safe Lap Belt Buckle

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended, provides that each vehicle which is subject to a recall campaign of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the owner has tendered it for repair. A failure to adequately repair within 60 days after tender of a vehicle is prima facie evidence of failure to repair within a reasonable time.

If the condition is not adequately repaired within a reasonable time, the owners may be entitled to an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle at no charge or to a refund of the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for depreciation.

To avoid having to provide these burdensome solutions, every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each owner and to repair their vehicle as soon as possible. As you will see in reading the enclosed copy of the letter which is being sent to owners, the owners are being instructed to contact Winnebago Industries, Inc. if you do not remedy the condition within five days of the mutually agreed upon service date. If the condition is not remedied within a reasonable time, they are instructed on how to contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has been informed that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in Minnie®, Spirit®, Minnie Winnie®, Sundancer®, Brave®, Brave® SE, Sunrise®, Sunrise® SE, Adventurer®, Suncruiser®, Chieftain®, Sunflyer®, Winnebago Journey™, Itasca Horizon®, Ultimate Advantage®, and Ultimate Freedom®. Lap belts with a defective buckle may be installed in motor homes built between January 14, 2000 and September 15, 2000. Some belt assemblies shipped to Winnebago had damaged or deformed areas on the pawl. The deformation is such that during engagement, the connector may be unable to transfer the load to the buckle. In some cases, this can cause the buckle to unlatch and leave the occupant unrestrained.

OWNER NOTIFICATION

Owners will be notified of this campaign on their vehicles by Winnebago Industries, Inc. For all units in your inventory, the notification will be mailed to you. **DO NOT DELIVER TO A CUSTOMER ANY SUBJECT UNIT UNTIL CORRECTIVE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.** Enclosed is a list of vehicles shipped to you.

DEALER CAMPAIGN RESPONSIBILITY

Dealers are to service all vehicles subject to this campaign at no charge to owners regardless of mileage, age of vehicle, or ownership from this time forward.

Whenever a vehicle subject to this campaign is taken into new or used vehicle inventory, or it is in your dealership for service in the future, you should take the steps necessary to be sure the campaign correction has been made before reselling or releasing the vehicle. Owners of vehicles recently sold from your new vehicle inventory are to be contacted by the dealer, and arrangements made to make the required correction according to instructions contained in this campaign.

DJ154/5

MEMORANDUM

Page Two

INSTRUCTION TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN #76

Affected Models:

2000 and 2001 models built between January 14, 2000 and September 15, 2000.

Repair Procedure:

Inspect all Model 90 'type one' (lap) seat belt buckles. DRIVER AND CO-PILOT SEAT BELTS ARE NOT AFFECTED. Buckles marked with Lot Number 9909, 9912, or 0001 are considered defective and need to be replaced. Please refer to instruction sheet for replacement procedure and return of defective belts.

Parts Information:

Order the following from the Winnebago Parts Administrator at 800/556-9670. When ordering, use Dealer Number 7646 or you will be charged for these parts.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Part Description</u>	<u>Part Number</u>
1	Belt/Buckle Assembly	007021-01-700

REIMBURSEMENT

When the service has been completed, fill out your repair order that has the labor amount and labor operation number listed below. The repair order must be properly signed by both dealer and owner before it is submitted to Winnebago Industries.

	<u>OPERATION NUMBER</u>	<u>TIME ALLOWANCE</u>
INSPECTION OF BUCKLES: <u>(DRIVER AND CO-PILOT SEAT BELTS ARE NOT AFFECTED)</u>	<u>24760101</u>	<u>.4 hr.</u>
- or -		
REPLACEMENT OF BUCKLE SIDE OF SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY (To replace one or more belts)	<u>24760201</u>	<u>1.0 hr.</u>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

DJ154/6

Enclosures

INSTRUCTIONS TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN #76

Replacement of Seat Belt Buckle Assembly on a Limited Number of Class A & C Motorhomes

PROCEDURE – Repeat for all seats in the living area of the coach

The basic procedure involves inspecting and, if necessary, replacing the buckle of the 90" (Model 90) lap belt assembly in the living area of the coach. **The tongue-end belt assembly does not need to be replaced; only the buckle-end belt assembly. This campaign excludes 102" (Model 102) lap belt assemblies and the driver/co-pilot seat/shoulder belt assemblies in the driver compartment.**

Step 1 – Inspect Seat Belt Buckle Date Code

- The Am-Safe seat belt buckle involved in this campaign has an image of a globe on the pushbutton on the face of the buckle as shown in photo 1.
- First, look for the date code stamped into the back side of the buckle as shown in photo 2.
- **Defective buckles** will have one of the following date codes:

9909

9912

0001

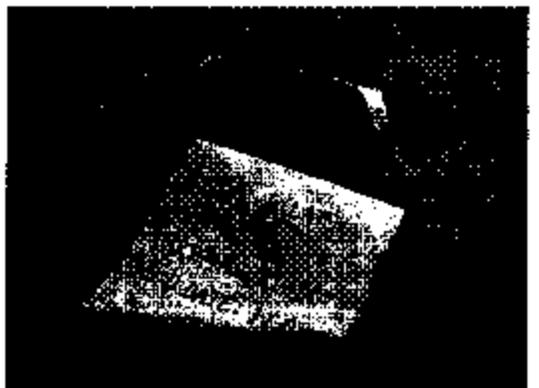
- Next, look for the tag label at the anchor bolt end of the tongue-end belt assembly as shown in photo 3. If the number is *Model 102*, no further action is required.
- If the tag shows **MODEL 90**, the buckle assembly must be replaced.

Step 2 – Remove and Replace Seat Belt Buckle Assembly

- Remove the bolt from the anchor bracket of the buckle-end belt assembly.
- Replace with new belt/buckle assembly and torque seat belt anchor bolt to 94–117 Nm (70–87 Ft. Lbs.) No floor covering or other material shall be allowed between the belt anchor and its mounting surface.
- Repeat for all other affected buckle/belt assemblies in coach.

Step 3 – Return Defective Buckle Assemblies to Am-Safe

- Return all defective belt buckle assemblies directly to Am-Safe Commercial Products using the shipping labels provided. Submit freight reimbursement to Winnebago Industries.
- Contact Winnebago Industries warranty department for additional shipping labels if needed.



NO AFFECTED UNITS SOLD BY YOUR DEALERSHIP



505 West Crystal Lake Rd
 Forest City, Iowa 50436
 PR: 641/385-3335 FAX: 641/383-6966

NOVEMBER 3, 2000

RE: BODY SERIAL
 CHASSIS SERIAL

Dear Owner:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Our records indicate that you have purchased a vehicle with the serial number which appears above.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has been informed that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in Minnie®, Spirit®, Minnie Winnie®, Sundancer®, Brave®, Brave® SE, Sunrise®, Sunrise® SE, Adventurer®, Suncruiser®, Chieftain®, Sunflyer®, Winnebago Journey™, Itasca Horizon®, Ultimate Advantage®, and Ultimate Freedom®. Lap belts with a defective buckle may be installed in motor homes built between January 14, 2000 and September 15, 2000. Some belt assemblies shipped to Winnebago had damaged or deformed areas on the buckle pawl. The deformation is such that during engagement, the connector may be unable to transfer the load to the buckle. In some cases, this can cause the buckle to unlatch and leave the occupant unrestrained.

WHAT WE WILL DO

Winnebago/Itasca dealers will inspect the lap belt buckles and, if necessary, replace it with a new belt and buckle assembly at no charge to you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Please contact your Winnebago/Itasca dealer immediately to arrange for an appointment. Please allow sufficient time for your dealer to obtain the belt assembly. The labor time necessary to perform this correction will be approximately one hour. Please allow time for the dealer to process your vehicle.

Winnebago, Itasca, and Ultimate dealers are best equipped to obtain parts and provide service to ensure your vehicle is corrected as promptly as possible. **HOWEVER**, if you take your vehicle to the dealer on the agreed date and he does not service this condition on that date or within five days, we recommend

CUT ON THIS LINE

Please cut on this line
 and drop this card in
 the mail. THANK YOU

BODY SERIAL:

RECALL 76

CHASSIS SERIAL:

PLEASE FILL IN APPROPRIATE BOX AND SIGN

- 1. I have never owned this vehicle.
- 2. I sold this vehicle to:

- 3. I cannot comply with the instructions in your letter because vehicle: Stolen Scrapped Other

- 4. Repair Completed: Date _____
 Location _____

Signature _____

you contact Winnebago Industries, Inc., Attn.: Owner Relations Representative (641-585-6939). If you are still unable to obtain such installation without charge to you and within a reasonable time, you may contact the Administrator, N.H.T.S.A., Washington, DC 20590, or call toll free, Auto Safety Hot Line, 800-424-9393 (Washington, DC, residents may call 202-366-0123).

Presentation of this letter to the service center will assist in making the necessary correction to your vehicle in the shortest possible time. If you

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

Enclosure



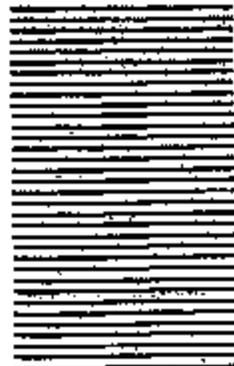
NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 28 FOREST CITY, IA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES INC.
SERVICE DEPARTMENT
P O BOX 152
FOREST CITY IA 50436



Administrator - Campaigns