



February 20, 2004

RECEIVED

2004 MAR -11 P 1:56

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
NHTSA

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.
400 - 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

04V-114 ① of ②

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Winnebago Industries, Inc. submits the following report pursuant to Part 573 of the NHTSA regulations. The numbered paragraphs below correspond to those found at Part 573.5(c).

1. Winnebago Industries, Inc.
605 W. Crystal Lake Road
Forest City, IA 50436
2. The motor vehicles potentially containing the defect are certain 2000 through 2004 model year Winnebago Journey®, Itasca Horizon®, and Itasca Meridian™ motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured April 28, 1999 through September 19, 2003. The vehicles were identified using production records showing models and VINs.
3. The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is: 5,143.
4. It is estimated that 100 percent of the vehicles contain the defect.
5. It has been determined that a condition exists where the LP tank has stress on weld joints at the point where the mounting brackets are welded to the tank. This condition may develop stress cracks at the weld joint. This could further lead to an LP leak through weld joint. The escape of LP gas from the tank has the potential to ignite, resulting in personal injury and/or vehicle damage.
6. Winnebago Industries, Inc. discovered the defect as a result of our own monitoring of field support data by our Customer Service Department.
7. N/A.
8. Winnebago Industries, Inc. will remedy this situation by removing and inspecting the LP tank and, if necessary, replacing the tank. The tank will be reinstalled using a cradle assembly to take the stress off the mounting brackets of the tank. Winnebago Industries, Inc. estimates the dealer letter will be mailed on or about March 26, 2004. The owner letter will be mailed two weeks later.
9. Enclosed is a copy of the dealer letter in draft form.

recall90/1

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
February 20, 2004
Page Two

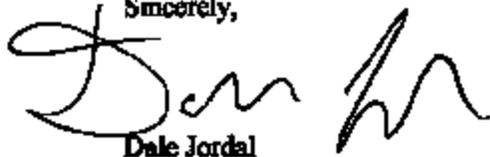
04V-114 2 of 14

10. Enclosed is a copy of the owner letter in draft form.

11. The recall documents will carry the Winnebago Industries, Inc. Number 90.

Should you have questions regarding this information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Jordal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dale Jordal
Product Safety Administrator

recall90/2

Enclosure

c: Ray Beebe
Steve Evenson
Mary Nieman
Donna Bindel

TO: Winnebago Industries, Inc. Dealers

SUBJECT: Campaign #90 – P-Series LP Tank Bracket

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 determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2000 through 2004 Winnebago Journey[®], Itasca Horizon[®], and Itasca Meridian[™] motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured April 28, 1999 through September 19, 2003. It has been determined that a condition exists where the LP tank has stress on weld joints at the point where the mounting brackets are welded to the tank. This condition may develop stress cracks at the weld joint. This could further lead to an LP leak through weld joint. The escape of LP gas from the tank has the potential to ignite, resulting in personal injury and/or vehicle damage.

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.

INSTRUCTION TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN #90**Affected Models:**

Certain 2000 through 2004 P-Series built April 28, 1999 through September 19, 2003.

Repair Procedure:

Refer to instruction sheet for inspection, replacement, and attachment of LP tank and its supporting hardware.

Parts Information:

Order the following Parts Kit from Winnebago Industries® using the WIN NET system. You will be placing the order as a recall order (see WIN NET Manual for recall order type). You will need the recall dealer number and the Winnebago Industries serial number of the affected vehicle to place the order.

P/N RC7661-04-790 for motor homes built April, 1999 through September*, 2002.

P/N RC7660-04-790 for motor homes built December*, 2002 through September, 2003.

*For motor homes built in October and November of 2002, please visually verify which kit is required.

P/N RC7661-04-790 is for chassis rail bracket flanges ([) that point forward.

P/N RC7660-04-790 is for chassis rail bracket flanges (]) that point rearward.

Dealer Number: 7660	
Part Number: RC7660-04-790	
Quantity	Part Description
1	Instruction Sheet
2	Cradle Asm., Style 71
2	Strap
4	½ - 13 Hex Nut
4	½ - 13 Bolt
4	½ Lock Washer
8	3/8 - 24 x 1.25 Hex Flange Bolt w/Loctite, Grade 8
8	3/8 - 24 Flange Nut
1	3/8 Star Washer
1	Hose Asm.
2	7/16" Drill Bit

Dealer Number: 7661	
Part Number: RC7661-04-790	
Quantity	Part Description
1	Instruction Sheet
2	Cradle Asm., Style 72
2	Strap
4	½ - 13 Hex Nut
4	½ - 13 Bolt
4	½ Lock Washer
8	3/8 - 24 x 1.25 Hex Flange Bolt w/Loctite, Grade 8
8	3/8 - 24 Flange Nut
1	3/8 Star Washer
1	Hose Asm.
2	7/16" Drill Bit

REIMBURSEMENT

When the service has been completed, file the 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>OPERATION NUMBER</u>
	<u>7660</u>	<u>7661</u>
INSPECT AND REPAIR:	24900101	24900201
TIME ALLOWANCE:	3 hrs.	3 hrs.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.

Forest City, Iowa 50436

recall90/5

Enclosures

**RE: BODY SERIAL
CHASSIS SERIAL**

04V-114 ⑤ of ⑭

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. If you have paid to have this defect corrected, you may be eligible for reimbursement. To be eligible, you must meet the requirements described in the enclosed Reimbursement Plan Notice.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2000 through 2004 Winnebago Journey[®], Itasca Horizon[®], and Itasca Meridian[™] motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured April 28, 1999 through September 19, 2003. It has been determined that a condition exists where the LP tank has stress on weld joints at the point where the mounting brackets are welded to the tank. This condition may develop stress cracks at the weld joint. This could further lead to an LP leak through weld joint. The escape of LP gas from the tank has the potential to ignite, resulting in personal injury and/or vehicle damage.

WHAT WE WILL DO

Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealers will inspect and, if necessary, replace your LP tank. Then, the tank will be reinstalled in a cradle-style carrier.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Please contact your Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealer immediately to arrange for an appointment. Please allow sufficient time for your dealer to obtain the kit for this recall. The labor time necessary to perform this correction will be approximately three hours. Please allow time for the dealer to process your vehicle.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. 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 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, 888-327-4236.

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 have sold or traded your vehicle, please let us know by completing the postage-paid owner reply card and returning it to us.

We are sorry to cause you this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products. This letter does not constitute an acknowledgment of legal liability.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

recall90/6

Enclosure

REIMBURSEMENT PLAN NOTICE

Dear Owner:

If you have already paid to have this defect or noncompliance corrected (Winnebago Recall No. 90), you may be eligible for reimbursement under this plan.

TO BE ELIGIBLE, YOU MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. You own, or have owned, a Winnebago Journey, Itasca Horizon, or Itasca Meridian built from April 28, 1999 through September 19, 2003.
2. You have paid for LP tank replacement.
3. The repair was performed on or prior to April 23, 2004.
4. You have the original repair order or invoice showing:
 - Vehicle model and year or VIN.
 - Repair date.
 - Itemized parts and labor charges including description of the replaced LP tank.
 - Your name and address at the time of repair.
 - Name and address of repair shop.

TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT:

1. Complete the reimbursement application. (See reverse side for form.)
2. Mail this application along with the original copy of the repair order or invoice to:

Attention: Owner Relations
Winnebago Industries, Inc.
605 West Crystal Lake Road
P.O. Box 152
Forest City, IA 50436

3. Retain copies of repair order or invoice for your records.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION

Recall90WR284/1

**REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION
WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES, INC.**

RECALL CAMPAIGN NO. 90

Please print all information:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

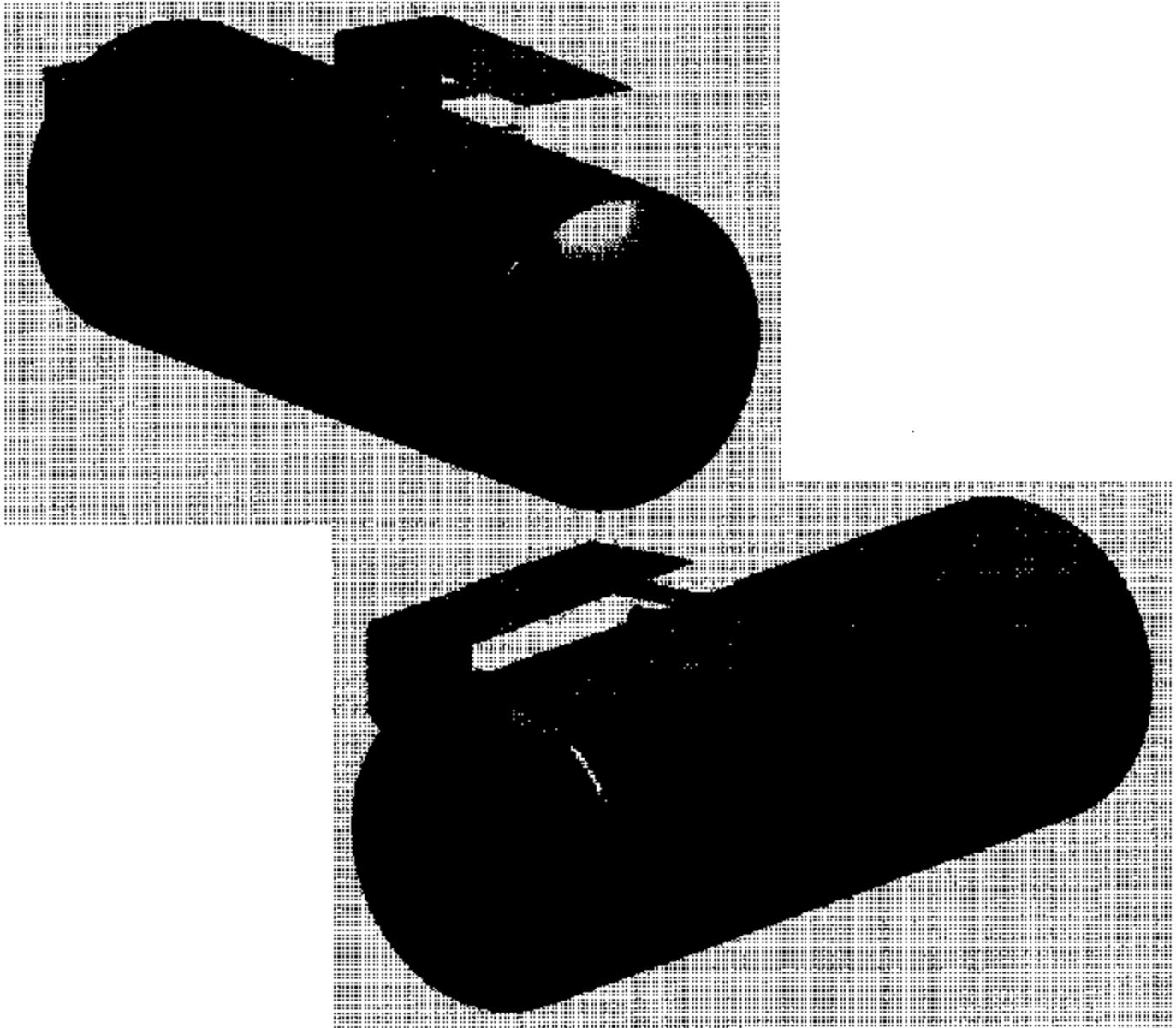
Telephone Number _____

(If we need additional information)

Manchester/Brunner LP Gas Tank Order Form – Campaign 90

If you have a leaking tank, please indicate with black felt tip or large point pen on the diagram below, where the actual leak is. Then place your recall order for the kit as outlined in the recall instructions.

04V-114 ① of ④



PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE THE ORDER.

You will need to supply this number for the ordering of the tank.

Recall Order # _____

Then fax this form to Winnebago Industries Part Sales: **641-585-8963**

INSTRUCTIONS TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN #90 Addition of LP Gas Tank Mounting Cradle Brackets

All 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 Winnebago Journey models
All 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 Itasca Horizon models
2004 Winnebago Journey models built before 9/22/03
2004 Itasca Meridian models built before 9/22/03.

04V-114 © 04

ISSUE

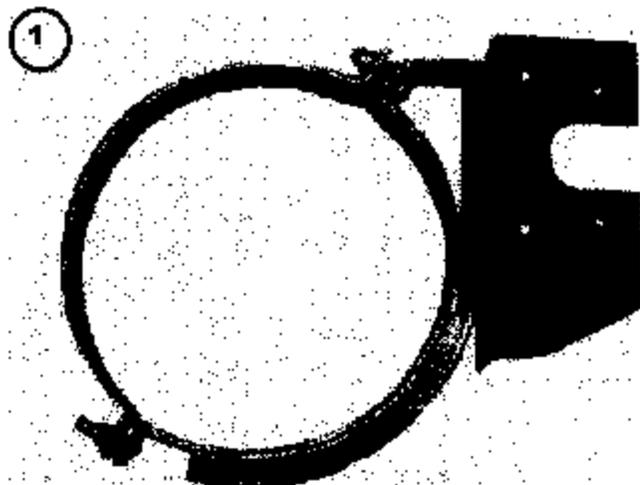
On affected vehicles, the weld joint on the Manchester/Brunner LP gas tank mounting fins may develop cracks due to road stress and cause a leak in the tank which could result in fire or explosion.

PROCEDURE

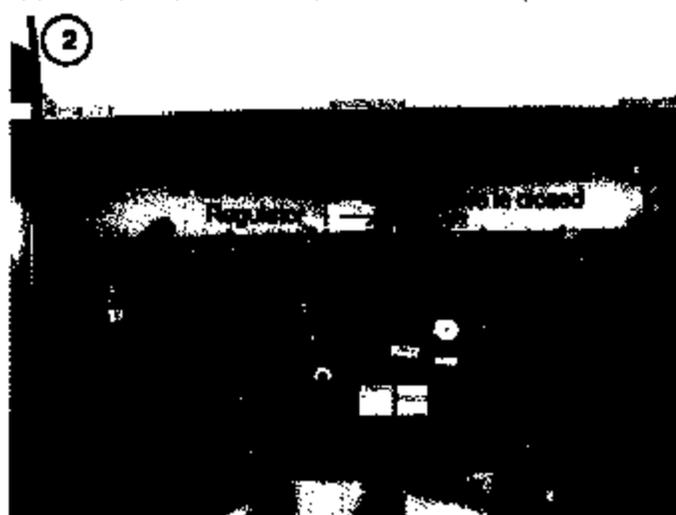
The basic procedure involves removing the LP gas tank, inspecting it for leaks and reinstalling it with new mounting cradle assemblies (photo 1).

WARNING: No Smoking, Flames or Sparks while working near LP gas components!

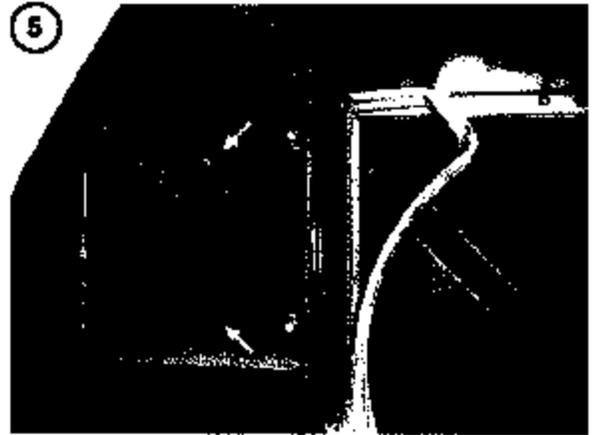
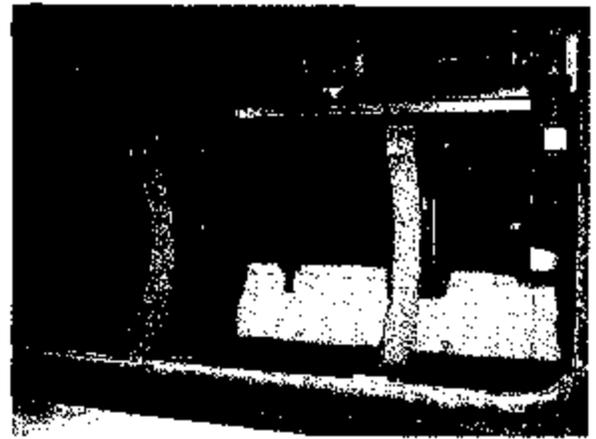
- Be sure the LP gas tank main supply valve is closed before beginning.
- Disconnect the LP gas hose at the black pipe manifold and regulator fitting. (photo 2) *Note: If tank position shifts forward with new installation, this hose may need to be replaced with a longer one to avoid stress on hose and connections.*
- Disconnect the green electrical bonding wire and the wires to the tank level gauge and tie up out of the way. *Note: If replacing the tank, the tank gauge should be transferred to the new tank. This gauge simply snaps onto the tank float fitting. Remove by carefully prying outward to avoid snapping off plastic retainer clips. (photo 3)*
- Unbolt and remove tank.
- Perform a soapy water leak test the weld beads on the tank brackets (mounting fins) to determine if the tank has a leak and requires replacement.
- **If a leak is evident**, complete the attached form and fax to Winnebago Industries Part Sales 641-585-8963 to have a new replacement tank shipped to your dealership.
- **If no leak is evident**, the tank should be reinstalled using the new cradle brackets.



Typical Cradle Bracket Assembly



- Pre-fit new cradle brackets onto frame mounting rails (photo 4) using existing bolts.
- Drill 2 additional holes into mounting rails using holes in new bracket as a guide.* (note arrows in photo 5) Please note that the existing tank brackets (fins) welded onto the tank will not be used for the new mounting configuration.



***NOTE:** In Oct./Nov. 2002, the mounting rails switched orientation from rearward opening to forward opening. See 'Strap Positions' on pages 4-6 for reference. Verify build date on line 3 of Vehicle Certification Label on wall panel to left of driver seat. (See illustration at below.)

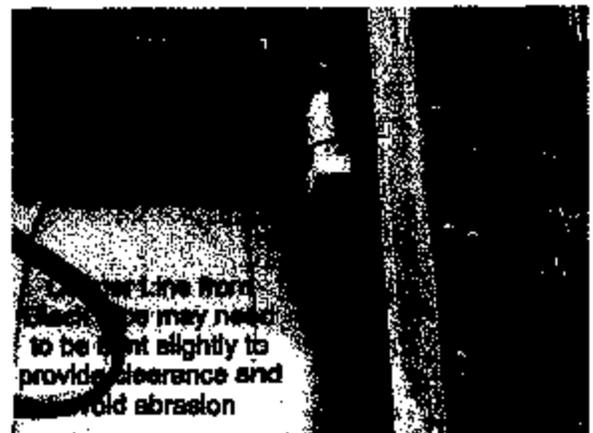
MANUFACTURED BY		INCOMPLETE VEHICLE MANUFACTURED BY			
WINNEBAGO		BY	1	2	
SERIAL NO.		3	4	5	6
SUITABLE TIRE AND AIR SERVICE		TIRE		PSI	
FRONT	REAR	FRONT	REAR	FRONT	REAR
16	16	7	7	35	35
THIS VEHICLE CONFORMS TO ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE SHOWN ABOVE.					
SERIAL NO.	10	VIN	11	COLOR	12
TYPE	13	MODEL	14	YEAR	15

04V-114 10 of 10

- Remove brackets from mounting rails and fit cradle and straps loosely to tank with straps positioned to avoid interference with tank components. See "Strap Positions" on pages 4-8 for initial strap placement for each type of tank.
- Lift tank into position using a movable lifting device (e.g. transmission jack, etc.) and check fit of tank. Tank may need to be rotated while lifting with fittings angled upward to enter the opening first as shown in photo 7.
- If necessary, lower the tank and relocate straps to assure adequate tank clearance to avoid contact with compartment sides or chassis components.
- Place tank and brackets into position and insert bracket-to-frame mounting bolts into holes. Be sure electrical wires pass through cutout in bracket without any pinching or chance of abrasion. (photo 8).
- Tighten the eight $\frac{3}{8}$ "-24 x 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " bracket-to-frame fasteners to 38 ft.lbs. Do Not Tighten strap bolts yet.



- Rotate tank as necessary to ensure plumb/level installation for proper fuel gauge level indication. It may also be necessary to bend copper line from black pipe to avoid contact with tank or compartment (photo 9).
- Tighten the four $\frac{1}{2}$ "-13 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " strap bolts to 57 ft.lbs.
- Reinstall regulator assembly and new supply hose using proper thread sealing compound.
- Reattach tank gauge to float fitting. (see photo 3)
- Be sure to reattach the green electrical bonding wire (photo 10). The ring terminal and star washer must be placed on the chassis frame side for direct ground contact with the frame, and not on the tank bracket side.
- Perform a soapy water leak test on all new LP tank connections, hoses and fittings.



LP Leak Test

Spray connection fittings with a solution of soapy water or a commercial leak testing solution.

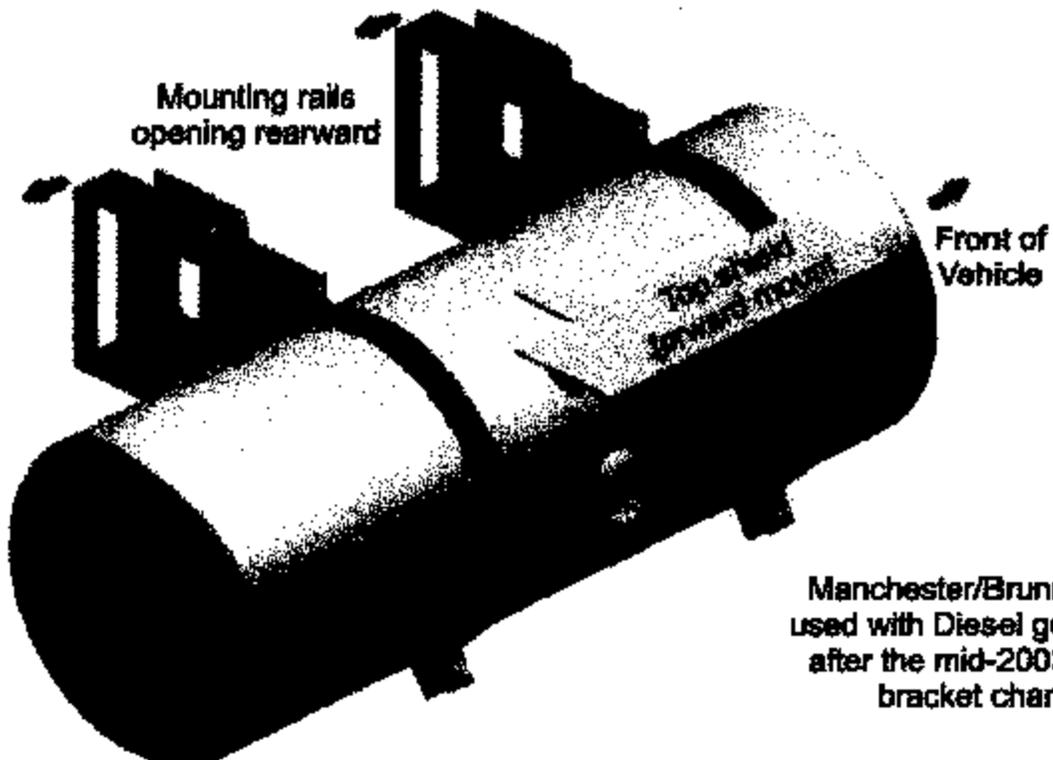
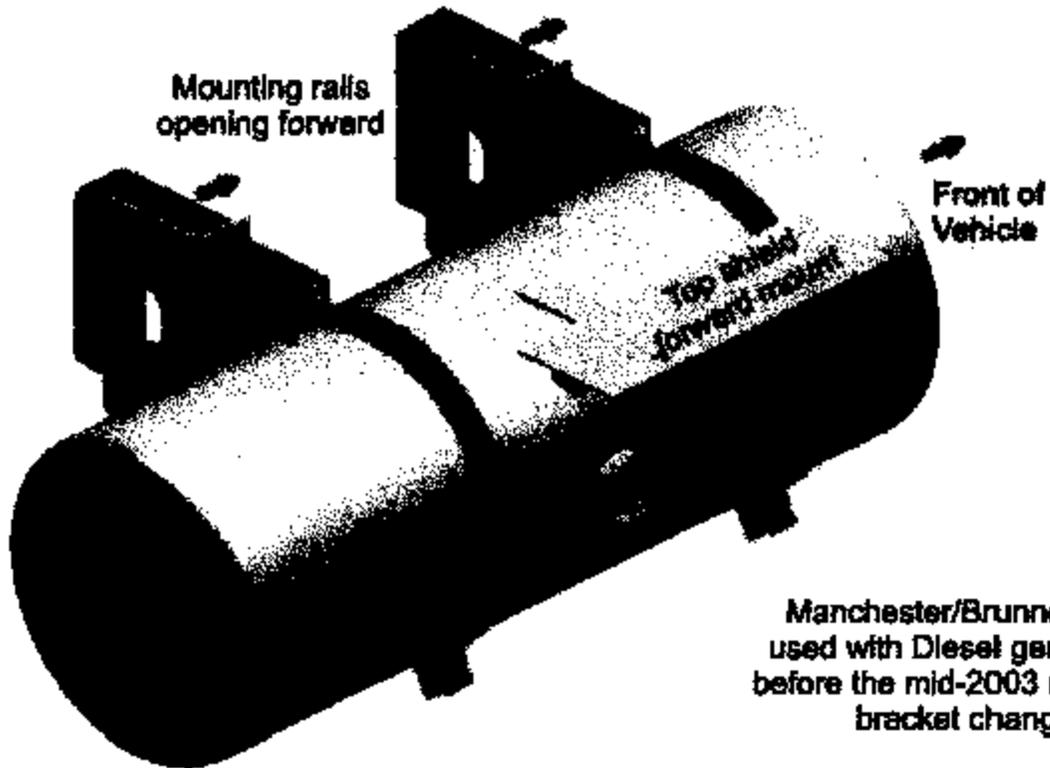
Do Not use any solution containing either ammonia or chlorine.

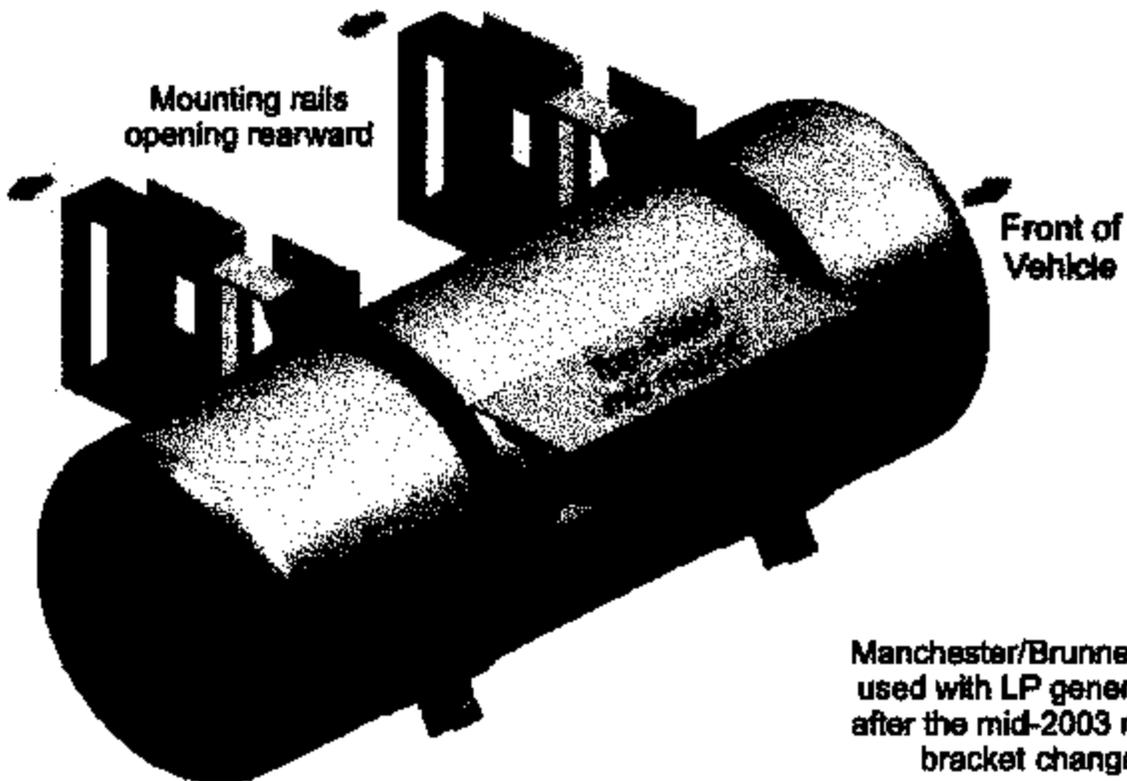
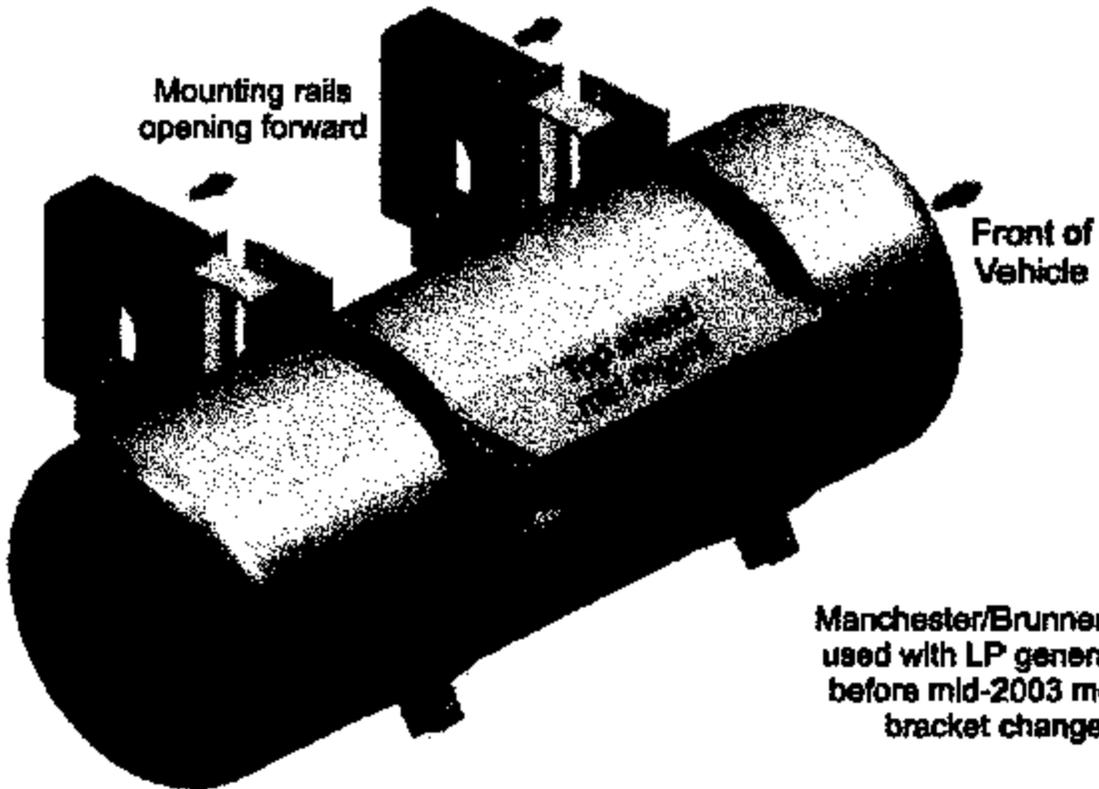
If a leak is present, the soapy water or leak test solution will 'bubble' at the leakage point. If this happens, replace the faulty part or reseat the connection and retest until there is no sign of leakage.

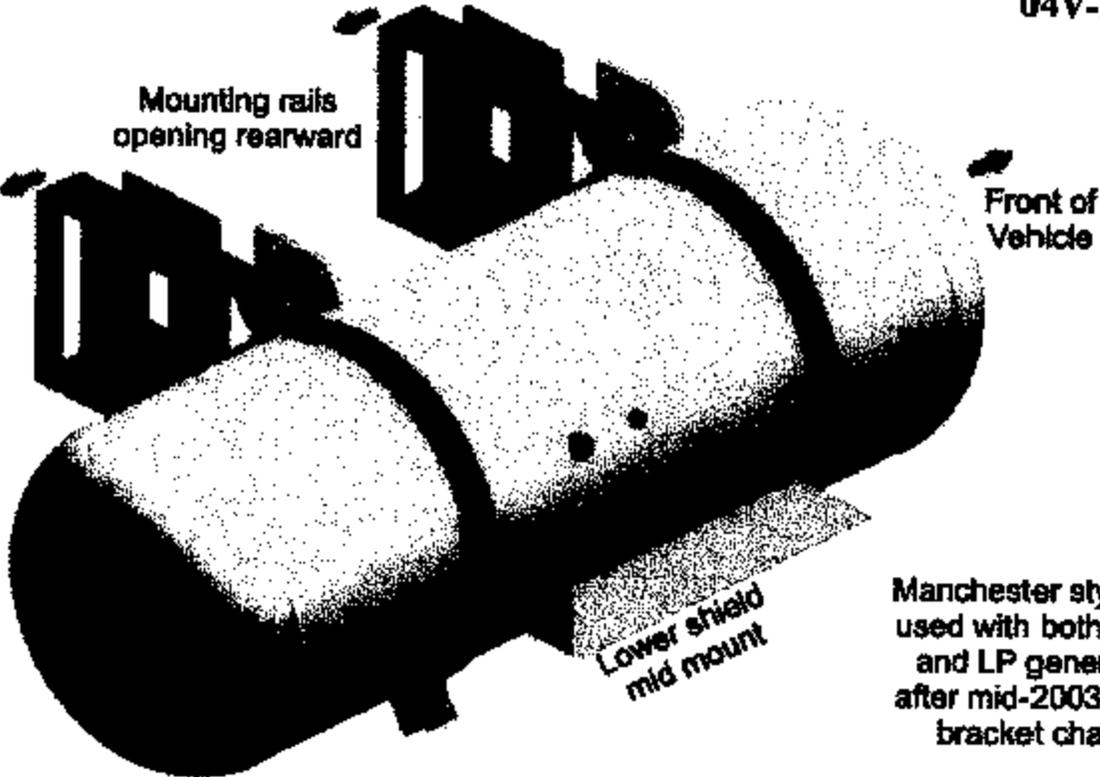
Strap Positions

These are suggested initial positions for the straps on several different Manchester/Brunner tank configurations. This is intended as a guide only to help you position the straps before attempting to mount the tank onto the frame. Some adjustment may still be required to fit the tank properly before tightening into place..

04V-114 ② of ④







Manchester style tank used with both Diesel and LP generators after mid-2003 mount bracket change