



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 03-009
 Prompted By: FLEETWOOD CAMPAIGN 03V-437
 Date Opened: 11/21/2003 Date Closed: 03/17/2004
 Principal Investigator: TOM BOWMAN
 Subject: WHEEL SEPARATIONS

Manufacturer: FLEETWOOD ENTERPRISES, INC.
 Products: 2002 - 2004 FLEETWOOD TRAVEL TRAILER AND FIFTH WHEEL TRAILER
 Population: 4933

Problem Description: Fleetwood did not torque the wheel mounting nuts installed on aluminum wheels to the proper value at original assembly. The owner's manual (a reference for owners to re-torque after break-in and at each pre-trip) also showed the incorrect torque values.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	64	65
Crashes/Fires:	0	2	2
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action: Close this Recall Query. Open an Engineering Analysis

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 03/17/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 03/17/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 03/17/2004

Summary: Fleetwood Enterprises determined that the wheel mounting nuts had been inadequately torqued in fifth wheel and travel trailers built with aluminum wheels since June 2002. Fleetwood alerted owners via a customer advisory notice in April and May of 2003. On October 29, 2003, Fleetwood made a defect determination and renotified owners.

In response to ODI's investigation, Fleetwood provided certain preliminary information to ODI, but this information does not adequately explain the reason(s) for wheel separations, and ODI continues to be concerned that the corrective actions may not completely address the issue.

Fleetwood's campaign directive requested that owners re-torque the wheel mounting nuts. Although re-torquing is consistent with good maintenance practice, ODI is concerned that the need to frequently re-torque the wheel mounting nuts may be indicative of underlying design, assembly, or application issues that could affect the retention integrity of the wheel mounting system.

Although Fleetwood has advised ODI that no additional wheel separations have occurred since their October 29, 2003 defect report and associated owner notification, ODI will open an Engineering Analysis to further investigate the issues that may be contributing to wheel separations in Fleetwood vehicles.