

Bowman, Tom

To: Williams, Brad**Subject:** Requests from ODI - NHTSA

This e-mail acknowledges and complies with Fleetwood's request for ODI to outline in writing certain investigation questions that ODI had raised during today's phone conversation regarding investigation RQ03-009. During today's phone call, ODI informed Fleetwood that the Agency has now conducted several phone interviews with owners who have experienced wheel separations in Fleetwood vehicles. (ODI had previously notified Fleetwood that the Agency would be making these calls.)

In addition to developing a better understanding of the circumstances surrounding each event, ODI is also interested in obtaining (retrieving) wheel end components that may have been retained in the possession of the owners or the servicing dealers (and if not already retrieved by Fleetwood).

ODI's owner interviews identified Beauty RV, San Marcos, CA (Titera vehicle) and Stears RV, Bakersfield, CA (Williams vehicle) as a possible sources for recovering wheel end components that had been replaced in these owner's vehicles. During today's call, Fleetwood advised ODI that they have recovered the wheel end components from these dealers. Accordingly, ODI has concluded that it is not productive for ODI to pursue recovering these components from these sources.

Prior to today's call to Fleetwood, Mr. Davies (Gig Harbor, WA) reported (to ODI) that the passenger side rear wheel had separated after he had taken possession and accumulated an estimated 5,000-6,000 miles on the vehicle. It is ODI's understanding that neither the owner nor Fleetwood has recovered the passenger side rear wheel from this incident. However, during today's discussion, Fleetwood advised ODI that Fleetwood had recovered the separated roadside (driver's side) wheel that had separated from the Davies vehicle while being delivered from Fleetwood's assembly plant to the selling dealer. ODI requests the following information from Fleetwood:

(A) Confirm the accuracy of the above summary.

(B) Identify, where possible, the vehicles (by owner or VIN number) that are associated with each of the inspection reports provided as Attachment 26a in Fleetwood's response to ODI dated February 23, 2004. Report numbers are: (1) SRN 294009, (2) Report No. 1600256, (3) SRN 0415406, (4) Report 0413553.

(C) ODI was not provided a copy of report 0414520 (Gillis vehicle, Incident #4) that Fleetwood identified during today's phone conversation. Please provide a copy of this report and any other inspection reports identified in ODI Request # 26 which may have been omitted from the February 23, 2004 response.

(D) Provide a complete answer to Request # 23. The request asked Fleetwood to state the reason for each of the changes listed and this information was not provided in the response.

Note: Based on ODI's review of the information submitted by Fleetwood, ODI is likely to be making further inquiries regarding the information provided by Fleetwood. ODI has summarized the above list at this time only because these subjects were the topics discussed today.

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