



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

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAY 19 2004

Mr. Chuck R. Zucker
Technical Coordinator Supervisor
Monaco Coach Corporation
1809 W. Hively Ave.
P.O. Box 4313
Elkhart, IN 46514-0313

Dear Mr. Zucker:

In a letter dated October 11, 2002, Monaco Coach Corporation (Monaco) notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573 that 7,008 model year 1997 through 2003 Monaco and Holiday Rambler motor homes contained a defect related to motor vehicle safety. Specifically, the brake systems on these vehicles can overheat, possibly resulting in loss of control of the vehicle or a fire. At that time, Monaco advised NHTSA that the remedy had not yet been determined. To date, Monaco has not yet provided NHTSA with a remedy plan including a date for owner notification.

Federal law requires that manufacturers must notify vehicle owners within a "reasonable" time after deciding that a defect is related to motor vehicle safety (49 U.S.C. §30119(c)(2)). While we recognize that determining the appropriate remedy for this defect is a complex and contentious issue, we believe that a reasonable time has long since passed.

Accordingly, we request that Monaco provide NHTSA with a remedy plan no later than June 1, 2004. This must include the earliest date that parts and facilities will be available to remedy the defect, the date that owners will be notified, and Monaco's plan for reimbursement of the costs of prenotification repairs incurred by vehicle owners. If Monaco is unable to provide this information at this time, please advise us of the reason and when it will be able to do so.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
800 424 9393

This letter is being sent to Monaco pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49. Monaco's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject Monaco to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. If you have any questions about this letter, you may call George Person at (202) 366-5210.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen C. DeMeter', is written over the typed name.

Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement