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DEFECTS OFFICE
INVESTIGATION

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicle PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

Date this report was prepared: March 21, 1994

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):
Winnebago Industries, Inc. #55

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the designated agent as prescribed by Section 110(e) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
P.O. Box 152
Forest City, Iowa 50436

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Donald D. Bartz

Telephone Number: 515-582-6945

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Donald D. Bartz
Product Safety Manager

Signed: *Donald D. Bartz* 3/21/94

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition in its vehicles which relate to motor vehicle safety.

This is a para-phrased guide developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227.

I. Identifying the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), furnish:

Make(s): Chieftain, Sunflyer, Elandan, Windcruiser, Superchief, Suncruiser
Model(s): See Attached Sheet
Model Years Involved: See Attached Sheet
Production Dates: Beginning: See Attached Sheet Ending: See Attached Sheet
VIN Range: Beginning: See Attached Sheet Ending: See Attached Sheet
Vehicle Type: Motor Home Bodystyle: Type "A"
Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Model Year and Model

Make(s): _____
Model(s): _____
Model Years Involved: _____
Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____
VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____
Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____
Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1993, through April 1, 1993, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

100% Per Model In That Model Year

II. Identifying the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
Listed Models	1988	5,938
Listed Models	1989	5,410
JP34RU	1988	5 (determined not to be part of population)

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 11,348

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: less than 1%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the inclusive dates of manufacture:

Winnebago researched its Data Processing records requesting a list of units per a list of models that were designed with the subject fuel tank. The Data Processing list was reviewed and cleansed for incorrect vehicles.

III. Identifying the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The fuel tank could potentially leak at the end seams or at the weldment of the baffle bottom welds.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Unknown.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Fuel may leak and if an ignition source is present, a fire may occur.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Unusual fuel usage.
Fuel odor.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name, address, and telephone number.

Helgesen Industries, Inc.
7261 Highway 60 West
Hartford, WI 53027

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Mr. Ron Marshall, President

IV. Identifying the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims. See prior correspondence between NHTSA and Winnebago and NHTSA file.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

V. Identifying the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

Winnebago will inspect the fuel tanks for leaks at the aforementioned locations and if leaks are found, Winnebago will replace the tank at no charge to the owner.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

Product was discontinued due to chassis supplier supplying larger capacity fuel tank.



TO: Winnebago and Itasca Dealers

SUBJECT: Campaign #55, Fuel Tank Inspection and/or Replacement

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 on 1988-1989 model year W/ICM27RQ, W/ICM31RQ, W/ICM34RQ, W/ICN31RT, W/ICP32RQ, W/ICP34RU, W/ICP37RQ; 1988 model year W/ICN27RU, W/ICN33RU, W/ICP28EU; and 1989 model year W/ICN31RQ, W/ICN33RQ, W/ICN36RQ, W/ICP32DQ. These vehicles are equipped with Helgesen Industry, Inc. 80-gallon fuel tanks which may leak. The potential leak areas are at either end of the tank at the seam joining the end plate to the body and at the bottom surface baffle attachments. Should gasoline leak from the tank and should an ignition source come in contact with the fuel, a fire could occur. Personal injury and/or vehicle damage may result.

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.

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Owners of vehicles recently sold from your vehicle inventory are to be contacted by the dealer, and arrangements made to make the required correction according to instructions contained in this campaign.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN #55

Affected Models:

The motor vehicles potentially containing the defect are: 1988-1989 model year W/ICM27RQ, W/ICM31RQ, W/ICM34RQ, W/ICN31RT, W/ICP32RQ, W/ICP34RU, W/ICP37RQ; 1988 model year W/ICN27RU, W/ICN33RU, W/ICP28EU; and 1989 model year W/ICN31RQ, W/ICN33RQ, W/ICN36RQ, W/ICP32DQ.

Repair Procedure:

See enclosed instructions.

Parts Information:

Order the following parts from the Winnebago Parts Administrator at 800-248-1309. **Please** order the corresponding gasket for the fuel tank ordered. When ordering, use Dealer Number 7625 or you will be charged for these parts. When a tank is removed, please retain it for inspection by your Service District Manager.

1989 model year W/ICN31RT, W/ICN31RQ, W/ICN33RQ, and W/ICN36RQ built on a Chevrolet chassis:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Part Number</u>
1	80-Gallon Fuel Tank	#093721-01-000
1	Fuel Sender Gasket	#086255-01-000

1988 model year W/ICN31RT, W/ICN33RU, W/ICN27RU, W/ICP28EU; 1988/1989 model year W/ICM27RQ, W/ICM31RQ, W/ICM34RQ, W/ICP32RQ, W/ICP34RU, W/ICP37RQ; 1989 W/ICP32DQ:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Part Number</u>
1	Fuel Tank	#090082-01-000
1	Fuel Sender Gasket	#086255-01-000

Reimbursement:

When the service has been completed, fill out the Warranty Repair Order (WRO) that has the labor amount and labor operation number listed below. The WRO must be properly signed by both dealer and owner before it is submitted to Winnebago Industries. The **on-line** computer entry may be used for this campaign. Please assure entry of the correct vehicle application numbers.

Inspection:

LABOR OPERATION NUMBER: 24550101 TOTAL TIME ALLOWED: .4 hours

Tank Replacement:

LABOR OPERATION NUMBER: 24550201 TOTAL TIME ALLOWED: 2.7 hours

Thank you for your cooperation.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

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Fuel Tank Inspection Instructions

1. This test should be conducted when the road surface is dry. Water, snow, ice, etc., may splash onto the tank and its dripping will cause an invalid test.
2. Locate an area where the vehicle can be put on a lift and not interfered with. Use normal precautions when doing this. This area will be used to observe fuel leakage.
3. Examine tank for gasoline leakage by checking for liquid seepage or liquid residue at the specified locations. A bright light such as a high-intensity trouble light may help in this process. (Should you need help in identifying if a tank is leaking, please call Winnebago Tech Service at 800-253-2267.) Should no leakage be visible, proceed to complete the WRO form using the appropriate operation number. If leakage is visible, contact the owner and schedule his vehicle for tank replacement. Caution the owner about the flammability of gasoline liquid/vapor and that he should use extreme care in operating his vehicle until the tank is replaced. After the tank is replaced, complete the WRO form using the appropriate operation number.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

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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 determined that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on 1988-1989 model year W/ICM27RQ, W/ICM31RQ, W/ICM34RQ, W/ICN31RT, W/ICP32RQ, W/ICP34RU, W/ICP37RQ; 1988 model year W/ICN27RU, W/ICN33RU, W/ICP28EU; and 1989 model year W/ICN31RQ, W/ICN33RQ, W/ICN36RQ, W/ICP32DQ. These vehicles are equipped with Helgesen Industry, Inc.'s 80-gallon fuel tanks which may leak. The potential leak areas are the seams joining the end plate to the body and at the bottom surface baffle attachments. Should gasoline leak from the tank and should an ignition source come in contact with the fuel, a fire could occur. Personal injury and/or vehicle damage may result.

WHAT WE WILL DO

Winnebago will inspect the fuel tank for potential leaks. If no leaks are found, no further action will be taken by Winnebago. Should the tank inspection reveal that the tank leaks at the aforementioned areas, Winnebago will replace the tank at no charge to you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

We ask that you contact your Winnebago or Itasca dealer immediately to arrange for an appointment for the inspection. The inspection will take approximately .4 hours. If no leaks are found, no further action is required of you. Should the tank need to be replaced, please make an appointment for this service. The labor time necessary to perform this service will be 2.7 hours. Please allow additional time for your dealer to obtain the parts kit and to process your vehicle.

Winnebago/Itasca 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 service date and he does not service this condition on that date or within five days, we recommend you contact Winnebago Industries, Inc., Attention: Owner Relations Representative (515-582-6939). 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, D.C. 20590, or call toll free, Auto Safety Hotline, 800-424-9393 (Washington, D.C. residents may call 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 have sold or traded your vehicle, please let us know by completing the postage-paid owner reply card and returning it to us.

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P. O. Box 152 • 605 West Crystal Lake Road • Forest City, Iowa 50436 • PH: 515/582-3535 • FAX: 515/582-6966

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

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Enclosure