

419 West Pike Street, PO Box 629, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0629

November 6, 2012

**VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Airstream
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Airstream has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety may exist in the recreational vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The recall population includes the following product model manufactured by Airstream.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Airstream Classic	2006 - 2009

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is 715.
These vehicles were manufactured between May 2005 and April 2009.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to his recall were built with Dexter axles with hydraulic disc brakes. As the axle hub and hydraulic brake assembly travel up and down during normal usage, the brake hose can flex near the fitting on the brake assembly. Over time, this flexing can cause fatigue and cause the brake hose to fail. If the brake line fails, the system will lose brake pressure and a loss of braking will occur. The loss of braking could result in a loss of vehicle control that could result in a crash. Also, under maximum upward travel the brake line can contact the underside of the trailer causing wear and possibly failure.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Airstream received notification from a customer on October 18, 2012 regarding the failure of their brake line. After an engineering review, it was determined that that brake line could fail under the given circumstances. A review of the information stored on file for each vehicle led to the determination of the beginning and ending production range.

- D. Remedying of Defect. The remedy is to replace the brake lines on each trailer with lines equipped with a 90 degree angle fitting that eliminates the flexing of the brake line during travel. The lines will also be re-routed to insure no contact with the trailer underside can occur. This will be done at no charge to the vehicle owner.
- E. Owner Notifications. Airstream will begin notifying owners within three weeks pending NHTSA approval. An owner's letter is attached for approval.
- F. Dealer Notifications. Airstream will begin notifying dealers within three weeks pending NHTSA approval. A dealer's letter is attached for approval.
- G. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Airstream will be filing quarterly reports in connection with this recall campaign.
- H. Campaign Number. Airstream does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Airstream will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Airstream with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Airstream in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact David Mihalick at 937-596-7965 or Terry Coleman, Airstream, at 937-538-1268.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager