

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

April 15, 2013

**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: Dutchmen Manufacturing Inc.
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Dutchmen Manufacturing ("Dutchmen") has decided that a non compliance to 49 CFR Part 567 and FMVSS 110 which relates to motor vehicle safety exists 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 brands manufactured by Dutchmen.

<u>Models</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Dutchmen 245RKS	2013

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is: 10.
These vehicles were built between 1/23/13 and 1/24/13.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to this recall campaign were manufactured with the incorrect information on the Federal Identification Tag, Tire and Loading Information Label, and The Recreational Vehicle Cargo Carrying Capacity Label. The Federal Identification Tag lists the wrong Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) and the wrong Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR). The GVWR of these vehicles was listed as 9,680 lbs. and should have been listed as 7,600 lbs. The error in the GVWR also caused the cargo carrying capacity of the trailers to be incorrect on the Tire and Loading Information Label, and The Recreational Vehicle Cargo Carrying Capacity Label. The GAWRs for the trailer were listed as 4,400 lbs. and should have been listed as 3,500 lbs. The tires were also listed as ST225/75R15(D) and should have been listed as ST205/75R14(C). Incorrect vehicle loading information could result in the owner overloading his vehicle, resulting in loss of vehicle control and property damage.

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- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. The non-compliance was discovered after an internal review of the information listed on the labels. 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 send a new Federal Identification Tag, Tire and Loading Information Label and The Recreational Vehicle Cargo Carrying Capacity Label to the owners to place over the current labels on their trailers. This will be done at no charge to the vehicle owner.

- E. Owner Notifications. Dutchmen will notify the owners of the recreational vehicles by letter pending NHTSA approval. A copy of the owner's letter is attached for approval.

- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Dutchmen will be filing quarterly reports in connection with this recall campaign.

- G. Campaign Number. Dutchmen does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Dutchmen will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA..

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Dutchmen with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Dutchmen in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact David Mihalick at 937-596-7965 or Jim Izbicki, Dutchmen at 574-975-0546.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager