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By Recall Management Division at 3:24 pm, Jul 15, 2013

13V-301
(15 pages)

LAKOTA

July 2, 2013

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, Ret. Rec. Reg.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington,
DC 20590

Subject: Lakota Trailers Recreational Vehicle Power Awning Recall Notification

Dear Ms. Timian:

Please find enclosed a Notification of Defect which Lakota Trailers is submitting pursuant to 49CFR, Part 573.6. The components of this Defect Notice at this time are:

1. Notification of Defect
2. Chronology
4. Dealer letters sent out within the 5 day notification requirement.
5. Remedy explanation
6. Remedy Verification and reimbursement card
7. Explanation of immediate and ongoing action on the part of Lakota Trailers to quarantine as much of the population as possible and repair potentially defective product before the trailer leaves.

Please establish a recall campaign number for Lakota Trailers to handle the campaign for this potential defect matter and notify us as soon as possible so that we can have it added to the Remedy Verification and Reimbursement Card.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



AJ Yoder
Customer Service, Lakota Trailers

LAKOTA

POTENTIAL DEFECT NOTIFICATION

Lakota trailers is aware Dometic Corporation ("Dometic"), a supplier of original equipment and aftermarket products for manufacturers of recreation vehicles ("RV's") and suppliers/dealers for the RV aftermarket has determined during the week of April 15th, 2013 that a potential defect may exist in the items of trailer equipment listed below. Lakota Trailers is submitting this notification of a potential defect to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration in accordance with the applicable provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.

Lakota Trailers is a business located at 4 Stoutco Bristol IN 46507, with a mailing address of PO Box 219 Bristol IN 46507. Lakota trailers products affected by this notice were manufactured by Lakota Trailers located, 4 Stoutco Bristol IN 46507.

The affected Lakota Trailers which may contain the potential defect are motor driven recreational vehicle power awnings manufactured between February 13th, 2013 and April 9th, 2013. The potentially affected awnings have the model designations set forth below:

WeatherPro Models

805XXXXXXXXX`
815XXXXXXXXX
825XXXXXXXXX
835XXXXXXXXX
845XXXXXXXXX
885XXXXXXXXX
855XXXXXXXXX
905XXXXXXXXX

9100 Power Awning Models

910XXXXXXXXX 915XXXXXXXXX
912XXXXXXXXX 916XXXXXXXXX
913XXXXXXXXX 917XXXXXXXXX
914XXXXXXXXX 918XXXXXXXXX

Awning "Motor Service Kit" Part Numbers

3307923.XXXX
3310423.XXXX

The possibly affected units will have the serial numbers that are located either on the right hand fabric or the right hand end of the fabric roller tube, beginning with the following digit combinations:

306XXXXX through 314XXXXX

THESE SERIAL NUMBERS ARE NOT LOCATED ON THE SUPPORTING ARMS

Trailer Vehicle Identification Numbers Affected:
These Serial numbers are located on the gooseneck coupler or tongue of each affected trailer.

1L9GB4K20E
1L9GB3J25E
1L9GB4K28E
1L9GX4J24E
1L9GB3J29E
1L9GB4K29E
1L9GX4J20E
1L9GB4K20E
1L9GB3J21E
1L9GX3G23E
1L9GB4K28E
1L9GB4K24E
1L9GX4J27E
1L9GX3G23E
1L9GB4K29E
1L9GX4J22E
1L9GB3J22E
1L9GB4K24E
1L9GX3J29E
1L9GB4K25E
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1L9GB4K29E
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1L9GB4K22E
1L9GB3K39E
1L9GB4K21E
1L9GB3J22E
1L9GB4K2XE
1L9GX3G22E
1L9GX3G27E
1L9GX4J2XE
1L9GB3K22E
1L9GX4J26E
1L9GX3J20E
1L9GB3J29E
1L9GX4J22E
1L9GX4J25E
1L9GX2F28E
1L9GX4H26E
1L9GX3G20E
1L9GB0420B
1L9GX4J22E
1L9GX3G23E

Models Affected:
CX9-BBX18

LAKOTA

The potential defect is associated with the motor assembly of the power awnings when installed as completed power awning assemblies, and is associated with the awning installation process. (The awnings "motor service kits" are not subject to the same potential installation process; however, because the awning "motor service kits" are the same motor assemblies as are included in the power awning assemblies, Lakota Trailers recognizes that there as well.)

With respect to the installation process of the completed power awning assemblies which include the subject motor assembly, it is possible that installers may unintentionally fail to strictly follow the instructions in sequence, and may not remove a torsion protective anti-rotation cotter pin from the end cap of the fabric roller tube assembly (FRTA) until after the side arms for the awning are installed on the side walls of the recreation vehicle ("RV"). In the event that the awning installation instructions are not strictly followed in sequence by the installer and the cotter pin is left in place while raising the awning to the side wall of the RV, the motor assembly screws may potentially experience abnormal torque if the attached arms are not lifted from a horizontal position to a vertical position simultaneously. This abnormal torque potentially can shear the two motor assembly screws inside the awning roller tube, which will enable the fabric of the awning to possibly unfurl while the recreation vehicle is either parked or in transit.

The products in question are power awnings used on Lakota Trailers. The total population of Lakota Trailers affected by this possible failure, according to Dometic is 54; however, Lakota Trailers does not agree with this number and has only been able to verify 49 affected trailers. In addition, of the 54 Dometic identified, 2 of the awnings were removed from Lakota and returned to Dometic prior to any installation upon a trailer.

Upon being informed of the possible defect by Dometic Corporation, Lakota Trailers immediately identified the affected trailers and provided the affected trailer including VIN, dealer, and customer data to Dometic Corporation. Lakota forwarded the recall notice provided by Dometic to all of its dealers. Lakota completed all necessary forms for the affected dealers and retail customers and submitted to Dometic Corporation so that parts were shipped to affected Lakota dealers and customers for replacement. 8 of the affected trailers have already been corrected.

The corrected trailers/awnings are as follows:

Lakota's remedial action is to replace the motor assembly with another model that is not subject to an out-of-sequence installation problems and does not have screws holding the motor assembly together in such a way as to be vulnerable to torque-shearing.

Lakota has prepared the appropriate notification that will cover all Lakota Trailers. A list of Dealers and Customers to whom Lakota Trailers has sold the population of these power awnings if being prepared and will be provided to the NHTSA either herewith or upon completion.

This notice was prepared by and inquiries should be sent to:

AJ Yoder
Customer Service
4 Stoutco, PO Box 219
Bristol IN 46507
574-848-1636
Fax 574-848-1467

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2013

Lakota Trailers

By: 
AJ Yoder
Customer Service, Lakota Trailers



CHRONIOLOGY OF EVENTS LEADING TO DEFECT DETERMINATION

On April 15th Lakota was informed by its Dometic Sales Representative of a problem with their power awnings and the possibility that they may unfurl. Lakota was provided with affect awning serial numbers by Dometic Corporation on or around April 22, 2013. Lakota immediately identified the trailers affected and provided the VINs, dealer, and customer data to Dometic for parts to be shipped as well as dealers and customers being contacted. Lakota sent a copy of Dometic notice to its dealers affected by the recall.

Attached is the product recall notice from Dometic by which Lakota Trailers is adhering for remedy of the defect.

Although Lakota provided all of the necessary data for notification to be mailed to dealers and customers, Dometic has not yet completed this portion and did not inform Lakota that it needed to submit the necessary documents to NHTSA to obtain a campaign number to that the mailing notification could be completed. The only other recall that Lakota trailers have been affected by is a refrigerator recall conducted by Dometic several years ago. At that time Dometic used Stericycle to complete the recall including but not limited to the notification, mailings, and subsequent reporting. It was Lakota's understanding this awning recall would be handled in the same manner as the refrigerator recall however, it has not been and so adjustments have had to be made on the part of Lakota to comply with NHTSA requirements as is our desire.

LAKOTA

PRODUCT RECALL

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

9100 POWER AWNING, WEATHERPRO AWNING AND MOTOR SERVICE KITS

April 17, 2013

Dometic is committed to providing a quality product for the enjoyment of our customers. We go to great lengths to thoroughly test our products. In our on-going testing process we have discovered a potential condition related to 9100 POWER AWNINGS, WEATHERPRO AWNINGS AND MOTOR SERVICE KITS (complete awnings and/or parts/accessories, included).

This potential condition affects ONLY product manufactured between February 13, 2013, [306XXXXX serial#] through April 9, 2013, 314XXXXX serial

#). The awning serial # appears on a label on the right underside of the fabric and on the roller tube. The Motor Service Kit's serial# appears on the end cap of the shipping tube.

Background We recently introduced an enhanced redesign of certain components associated with the motor in our 9100 Power Awning & WeatherPro Awning and Motor Service Kits. There is an important step in our installation instructions which, in conjunction with our design change, CANNOT BE BYPASSED from the proper sequence (see below, as presented in our instructions).

! IMPACT OR PINCH HAZARD.
Removing cotter pin from torsion rod will attempt to spin the hardware and/or fabric roller tube quickly and unexpectedly. Failure to obey this warning could result in death or serious injury.

Remove cotter pin from left end of torsion rod (LH end cap). See (FIG. 6).

Removing cotter pin will release factory preset torsion (spring) tension.

- Straighten end of torsion rod by rotating (rotating) by cotter pin.

Rotate fabric roller tube (as if for LH end cap) by pulling fabric roller tube out and discarding it for easier removal.

cotter

Condition Through on-going testing, we have become aware that in some cases this step is being bypassed during installation. In bypassing this installation step the 9100 Power Awning, WeatherPro Awning, or Motor Service Kit installation can damage the awning motor. It is possible that the awning can unfurl unexpectedly, either while the coach is at rest

Action Due to this potential condition, which will NOT be evident from post-installation inspection, Lakota is requesting that you DO NOT SHIP any units with an installed 9100 Power Awning, WeatherPro awning, or Motor Service Kit manufactured LAKOTA CORP – PO BOX 219 – 4 STOUTCO DRIVE – BRISTOL, IN

46507

PHONE: 574-848-1636 FAX: 574-848-1467

within this date range described above. We need you to confirm the serial number of any units that you may have purchased from Lakota. We have provided the attached visual depiction of the affected motors for your convenience. If you have confirmed a serial number, as outlined, then please call 1-574-848-1636. We will provide detailed instructions during this call.

Lakota is filing a "safety-related defect" notification campaign with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). As required by 49CFR 573 the OEM is also required to file a "safety-related defect" notification with NHTSA. We are also filing a "safety-related defect" notification with Transport Canada. However, if you have sold or shipped Recreation Vehicles into Canada, with the recalled power awning assemblies in place it is our understanding you are required by Canadian Law to file a Vehicle Manufacturers Recall Campaign with Transport Canada on behalf of your Recreational Vehicle Company.

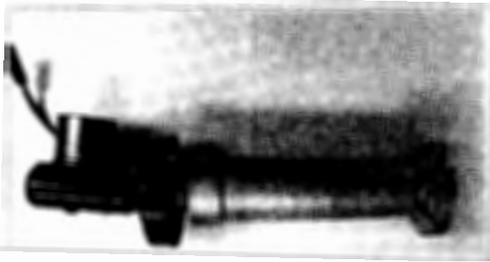
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46507

PHONE: 574-848-1636 FAX: 574-848-1467

LAKOTA

Lakota Trailers greatly appreciates your assistance in correcting this potential condition.

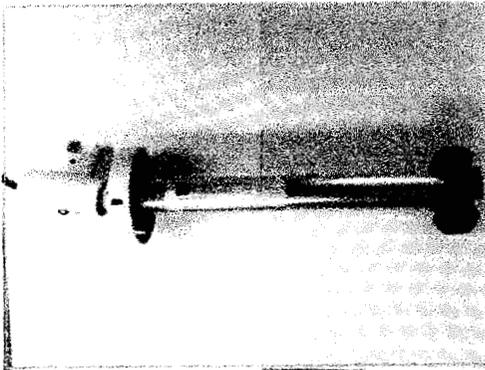


Awning Motor
Pre February 13, 2013. This motor is not affected by the product recall.



Awning Motor
This motor is affected by the product recall.

Serial Range 306xxxx to 314xxxx
Manufacturing Date Range
02/13/2013 to 04/09/2013



Awning Motor
Post April 9, 2013. This motor is not affected by the product recall.

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46507

PHONE: 574-848-1636 FAX: 574-848-1467



NHTSA RECALL. ---

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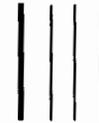
<u>Customer Information</u>		<u>Dealer/Repair Center Information</u>	
Name		Dometic Dealer #	
Address		Name	
City and State		Address	
Zip		City and State	
		Zip	
		Work Order #	

<u>Recalled Unit Information</u>		<u>Recreational Vehicle Information</u>	
Model #		VIN #	
Serial #		Manufacturer	
Repair Date			

This card must be thoroughly completed and returned within 2 days of completion of repair service to expedite reimbursement

FORM NO 331 5460.000

**LAKOTA CORP -
PO BOX 219 -
4 STOUTCO DRIVE -
BRISTOL, IN 46507**



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STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 425 ELKHART IN
 POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



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46507**

Postnet barcode

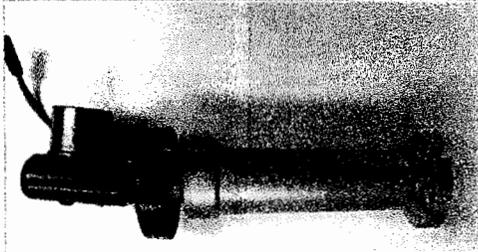
within this date range described above. We need you to confirm the serial number of any units that you may have purchased from Lakota. We have provided the attached visual depiction of the affected motors for your convenience. If you have confirmed a serial number, as outlined, then please call 574-848-1636. We will provide detailed instructions during this call.

Lakota is filing a "safety-related defect" notification campaign with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). As required by 49CFR 573 the OEM is also required to file a "safety-related defect" notification with NHTSA. We are also filing a "safety-related defect" notification with Transport Canada. However, if you have sold or shipped Recreation Vehicles into Canada, with the recalled power awning assemblies in place it is our understanding you are required by Canadian Law to file a Vehicle Manufacturers Recall Campaign with Transport Canada on behalf of your Recreational Vehicle Company.

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46507
PHONE: 574-848-1636 FAX: 574-848-1467**

LAKOTA

Lakota Trailers greatly appreciates your assistance in correcting this potential condition.

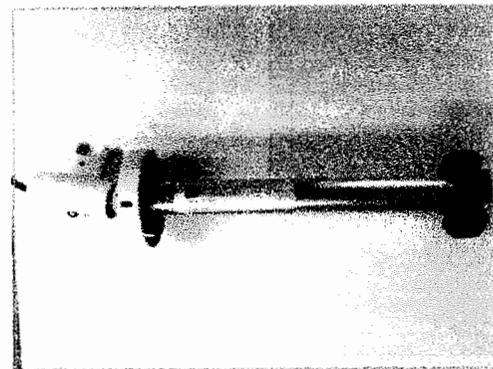


Awning Motor
Pre February 13, 2013. This motor is not affected by the product recall.



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Serial Range 306xxxx to 314xxxx
Manufacturing Date Range
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Awning Motor
Post April 9, 2013. This motor is not affected by the product recall.

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46507

PHONE: 574-848-1636 FAX: 574-848-1467



NHTSA RECALL. ---

----1

<u>Customer Information</u>		<u>Dealer/Repair Center Information</u>	
Name		Dometic Dealer #	
Address		Name	
City and State		Address	
Zip		City and State	
		Zip	
		Work Order #	

<u>Recalled Unit Information</u>		<u>Recreational Vehicle Information</u>	
Model #		VIN #	
Serial #		Manufacturer	
Repair Date			

This card must be thoroughly completed and returned within 2 days of completion of repair service to expedite reimbursement

FORM NO 331 5460.000

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PO BOX 219 -
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BRISTOL, IN 46507**



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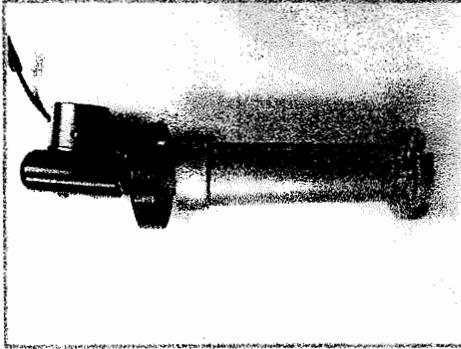
BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 425 ELKHART IN
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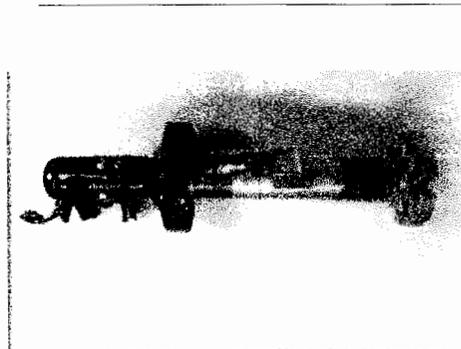
**LAKOTA CORP - PO BOX 219 - 4 STOUTCO DRIVE - BRISTOL, IN
46507**



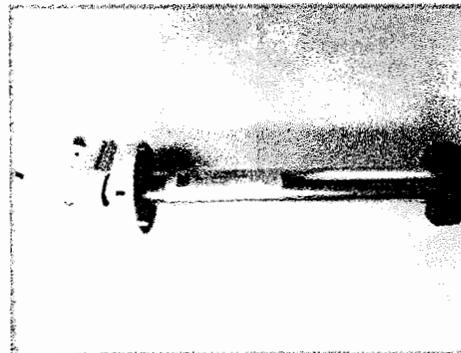
LAKOTA



Awning Motor --
Pre February 13, 2013. This motor
is not affected by the product
recall.



Awning Motor-
This motor is affected by the
product recall.
Serial Range 306xxxx to 314xxxx
Manufacturing Date Range
02/13/2013 to 04/09/2013



Awning Motor-
Post April 9, 2013. This motor is
not affected by the product recall.

LAKOTA

Sample Recall Card-This card will be included with the motor service kit.

Lakota

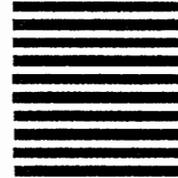
Customer Information		Dealer/Repair Center Information	
Name		Domestic Dealer #	
Address		Name	
City and State		Address	
Zip		City and State	
		Zip	
		Work Order #	
Recalled Unit Information		Recreational Vehicle Information	
Model #		VIN #	
Serial #		Manufacturer	
Repair Date			

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**LAKOTA CORP - 3
PO BOX 219 -
4 STOUTCO DRIVE -
BRISTOL, IN 46507**

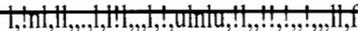


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PHONE: 574-848-1636 FAX: 574-848-1467**