

**Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles****PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**

Date: 8-1-13

This report serves as Columbia Northwest's notification to the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Administration that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Somerset Niagara Camping Trailers. Columbia Northwest decided that this defect existed in these vehicles on 7-29-13

**I. Manufacturers, Designated Agent, and Other Chain of Distribution Information**Manufacturer's corporate name: *Columbia Northwest, Inc.*Vehicle brand or trademark name owner(s): *Somerset Camping Trailers*Designated Agent (imported vehicles): *None*

If this notification concerns a defective or noncompliant component that the above identified manufacturer did not manufacture, identify that component and provide the name, address, and phone number of the manufacturer of the component (if this manufacturer is unknown, provide this information as to the supplier of the component):

The identified defective component is an aluminum wheel supplied by the following company:

*Americana Tire & Wheel  
Division of Americana Development, Inc.  
3001 West Market Street  
York, PA 17404  
(717) 793-9700 corporate office*

Name, address, email, and phone and FAX numbers for the person(s) to whom inquiries about this report should be directed:

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Manufacturer's assigned campaign number (where applicable): None Assigned

## II. Identification of the Recall Population and Its Size

Complete the tables below for each group of vehicles subject to this notification. Additional tables may be necessary where there are more than three groups subject to a notification.

Make: <i>Somerset Camping Trailers</i>		
Model: <i>Niagara</i>		
Model Year: <i>2013 and 2014</i>		
Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year): <i>Jan 2012 to Present</i>		
Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars): <i>Towable / Folding Camping Trailer</i>		
Other information necessary to describe these vehicles (e.g., VIN range, GVWR or class for trucks, displacement for motorcycle, and number of passenger for buses:		
<b>Mfg. Date</b>	<b>VIN</b>	<b>Dealership</b>
05/23/2012	1C9SS1912DA	Princess Craft Mfg.
05/29/2012	1C9SS1918DA	Indian Valley Camping Center, Inc.
05/30/2012	1C9SS1910DA	Motor Sportsland, Inc.
06/06/2012	1C9SS191XDA	Carolina Coach and Camper, LLC
06/09/2012	1C9SS1918DA	Apache Camping Center Portland
06/09/2012	1C9SS1916DA	Apache Camping Center Tacoma
06/09/2012	1C9SS1914DA	Apache Camping Center Everett
06/18/2012	1C9SS1911DA	Happy Camper RV Sales
06/18/2012	1C9SS1919DA	Myers RV Center, Inc.
06/25/2012	1C9SS1916DA	TopperSalesInc dba Toppers Camping Center
06/25/2012	1C9SS1911DA	Paul Evert's RV Country, OR
07/02/2012	1C9SS1917DA	M & M Camping Center, Inc.
07/02/2012	1C9SS1917DA	Beckleys Camping Center
07/10/2012	1C9SS1915DA	Traveland Leisure Vehicules LTD
07/17/2012	1C9SS1910DA	R.V.'s Northwest, Inc.
07/20/2012	1C9SS1914DA	Paul Evert's RV Country, CA
07/25/2012	1C9SS1913DA	Outdoor Sports Center, Inc.
07/25/2012	1C9SS1915DA	Outdoor Sports Center, Inc.
07/28/2012	1C9SS1910DA	Beckleys Camping Center
07/28/2012	1C9SS1912DA	Beckleys Camping Center
08/06/2012	1C9SS191XDA	Kramer's Kampers
08/15/2012	1C9SS1913DA	Harold's RV Center, Inc
08/18/2012	1C9SS1911DA	TopperSalesInc dba Toppers Camping Center
08/24/2012	1C9SS1912DA	Indian Valley Camping Center, Inc.
08/24/2012	1C9SS1917DA	Tennessee RV Sales & Service LLC
09/04/2012	1C9SS1919DA	Motor Sportsland, Inc.
09/04/2012	1C9SS191XDA	Motor Sportsland, Inc.
09/12/2012	1C9SS1916DA	Stoltzfus Trailer Sales
09/24/2012	1C9SS1915DA	Myers RV Center, Inc.

09/24/2012	1C9SS1917DA	Myers RV Center, Inc.
10/02/2012	1C9SS1910DA	Apache Camping Center Portland
10/09/2012	1C9SS1915DA	John's RV Sales and Service
10/20/2012	1C9SS1911DA	Myers RV Center, Inc.
10/27/2012	1C9SS1914DA	Stewart's RV
10/29/2012	1C9SS1914DA	Apache Camping Center Tacoma
10/29/2012	1C9SS1912DA	Apache Camping Center Everett
10/31/2012	1C9SS1913DA	Southland Motorhome Center, Inc.
10/31/2012	1C9SS1914DA	Stewart's RV
11/07/2012	1C9SS1918DA	Carolina Coach and Camper, LLC
11/22/2012	1C9SS1916DA	Traveland Leisure Vehicules LTD
11/22/2012	1C9SS1912DA	Traveland Leisure Vehicules LTD
11/30/2012	1C9SS1914DA	Sun City Trailers, LLC
12/06/2012	1C9SS1918DA	Apache Camping Center Portland
12/06/2012	1C9SS191XDA	Apache Camping Center Portland
12/22/2012	1C9SS1913DA	Hemlock Hill RV Sales, Inc.
12/31/2012	1C9SS1916DA	Apache Camping Center Everett
01/16/2013	1C9SS1912DA	Beckleys Camping Center
01/16/2013	1C9SS1914DA	Beckleys Camping Center
01/24/2013	1C9SS1910DA	RV America Aurora
01/25/2013	1C9SS191XDA	Discount RV Corner
02/05/2013	1C9SS1914DA	Kramer's Kampers
02/12/2013	1C9SS1916DA	Indian Valley Camping Center, Inc.
02/12/2013	1C9SS1918DA	Indian Valley Camping Center, Inc.
02/21/2013	1C9SS1911DA	Traveland Leisure Vehicules LTD
02/27/2013	1C9SS1916DA	Kramer's Kampers
03/05/2013	1C9SS1915DA	Beckleys Camping Center
03/21/2013	1C9SS1913DA	Indian Valley Camping Center, Inc.
03/21/2013	1C9SS1917DA	Indian Valley Camping Center, Inc.
04/10/2013	1C9SS1919DA	Holiday World RV Centre
04/30/2013	1C9SS1916DA	Beckleys Camping Center
07/11/2013	1C9SS1919EA	Apache Camping Center Everett
07/11/2013	1C9SS1917EA	Apache Camping Center Everett
07/11/2013	N D	Apache Camping Center Portland
07/12/2013	N D	Southland Motorhome Center, Inc.
07/19/2013	359N	Traveland Leisure Vehicules LTD
07/19/2013	305N	Traveland Leisure Vehicules LTD
Total number of these vehicles: 66		

Provide the following information as to all the group of vehicles:

Grand total number of vehicles: 66 *Niagara trailers*

The percentage of the recall population you estimate actually contain the defect or noncompliance:  
*Unknown at this time*

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined (e.g., on what basis the recalled models were selected and how the inclusive dates of manufacture were determined):

*CNW determined the recall population by including all Niagara trailers manufactured from the beginning of production. Each Niagara could potentially contain the defect.*

Describe how the recall population is different from any similar vehicles not subject to this notification:  
*The Niagara trailers are the only units built and shipped with the 14" aluminum wheels and corresponding lug nuts. No other Somerset Camping Trailers use these components.*

### **III. Description of the Defect or Non-Compliance and Chronology of Events**

Describe the defect or noncompliance, including a summary and detailed description of the nature and physical location (if appropriate) of the defect or noncompliance. Graphic aids should be provided where necessary:

*The 14" aluminum wheels used on the Somerset Niagara models have disengaged from the axle hub. This disengagement has occurred within the 50 miles. The disengagement can result in significant damage to the trailer, and is considered a safety concern for units traveling down the highway.*

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

*The root cause of these wheel failures is still under investigation. However, CNW has confirmed that the correct and appropriate lug nut has been used for this size wheel and style. After consulting with Americana Tire & Wheel Company (tire/wheel supplier), and conducting an internal review of failed wheels, CNW believes that the lug nuts were not sufficiently tightened down to the required 90 ft-lbs. of torque. The manufacturer of the wheels changed the design and size of the threaded lug studs holes to allow for improved engagement with COTS lug nut wrenches. The wheels used on these units did not have this improved design change, and could possibly not have been torqued to the required amount. It is the opinion of Americana Tire and Wheel that this type of failure is typically caused by loose lug nuts.*

Describe the safety consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition:

*The loss of a wheel during transit can result in the loss of control of the tow vehicle, resulting in a potential vehicle accident. The loss of a wheel during transit could also potentially cause another vehicle in the vicinity of the failure to be impacted or effected, causing another accident, collateral damage, or injury.*

Identify any warning(s) that may precede the defect or noncompliance condition.

*Gradual wheel lug failure due to a possible defect in the wheel structure or loss of torque would cause the wheel to wobble, or rotate out of alignment for a period of time prior to failure; therefore causing vibrations in the undercarriage that may be noticed by the operator of the tow vehicle. These vibrations could cause the trailer to sway or be noticeably difficult to control, especially since at this time only one wheel has failed on one side of a trailer.*

For defects, provide a dated, chronological summary of all the principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect is related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information such as numbers of crashes, injuries, and fatalities.  
*CNW made the decision that a potential defect in the wheel structure or an installation issue (low torque applied to the lug nuts) after the loss of a wheel on Niagara trailer VIN 1C9SS1914DA237220. This unit had travelled approximately <50 miles from the dealership after retail when the wheel loss occurred on 7-26-13. For the three wheel failures listed in the chart in Section II, there were no serious injuries or fatalities in each of these occurrences.*

#### **IV. The Remedy Program and Its Schedule**

Describe the program for remedying the defect or noncompliance, including the plan for reimbursing those owners and purchasers who may have incurred costs to remedy the defect or noncompliance before receiving the manufacturer's notification concerning that defect or noncompliance. Also, include, where applicable, details with dates concerning any production remedy that was conducted or will be conducted. *Since the wheel supplier has not confirmed any other structural wheel failures for the 14" aluminum wheel that is also supplied to other trailer manufactures, CNW believes these failures are not a material defect in the aluminum structure of the wheel. CNW believes these wheel disengagements are the result of loose lug nuts that were not tightened down to the appropriate 90 ft-lbs. requirements. The failure to apply the correct amount of torque could have occurred at the CNW facility and also at the dealerships. To remedy this situation, CNW intends to send each Niagara owner a new lug wrench socket that has been specially designed by Americana Tire and Wheel Company that fits into the stud hole, and provides clearance to tighten-down the lug nuts. This new lug nut socket has a thin-wall design that will not engage with the lug nut hole inside diameter. A re-tightening of each lug nut will prevent a loss of torque, and subsequently prevent the wheels from disengaging from the hub.*

*CNW will provide these lug nut sockets to consumers and dealerships at no cost. CNW will also supply any owner with a new wheel and tire for failures that occurred, and will also cover any damage to the trailers under the trailer warranty.*

Provide the estimated date(s) on which owner and purchaser notifications will be issued and the estimated date(s) for completion of these notifications.

*Notifications expected to be completed the week of August 5.*

Provide the estimated date(s) on which dealer and distributor notifications will be issued and the estimated date(s) for completion of those notifications.

*Notifications expected to be completed the week of August 5.*

Describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

*There are no distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly (i.e., aluminum wheel) for the recalled components versus the remedied components. The wheels will remain the same. The distinguishing characteristic is the application of the correct amount of torque to the five (5) wheel lug nuts.*