

**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management division at 11:26 am, Dec 18, 2013



December 13, 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: 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 Interstate	2013 - 2014

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is 552.  
These vehicles were manufactured between August 2012 and October 2013.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to his recall were built with a defective propane system. The installation of the propane tank and regulator allow liquid propane to enter the regulator, which results in the failure of the first stage of the regulator. If the first stage of the regulator is damaged it will allow propane to escape out of the safety release vent if it experiences an over pressurized condition. If the vehicle is parked in an enclosed storage area, the escaping propane can collect and potentially cause a fire and or explosion to occur.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. In July of 2013, Airstream saw an increase in warranty claims for propane regulators. It contacted Manchester Tank, which performed a root cause analysis in conjunction with Cavagna on several of the returned regulators. This analysis was completed on July 26, 2013. At that time it was concluded that these were isolated incidents caused by uncontrolled events. Airstream and Manchester agreed at that time to monitor the warranty claims moving forward. Warranty claims have remained at the same level since that date. 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 regulator on the propane tank with a new regulator. This new regulator contains a flexible lever arm which when tested can handle an extreme rise in propane pressure. Airstream started receiving this new regulator on September 23, 2013 for its production vehicles. This replacement will be done at no charge to the vehicle owner.
- E. Supplier Information. The propane regulators were supplied by:
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>Distributor:</u><br>Manchester Tank<br>3630 Manchester Drive<br>Elkhart, IN 46514<br>1-800-640-6327<br>Contact: Frank Lane | <u>Regulator Manufacturer:</u><br>Cavagna North America<br>50 Napoleon Ct.<br>Somerset, NJ 08873<br>732-469-2100 ext 120<br>Contact: Richard Darche |
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- Manchester and Cavagna have confirmed that this issue is only present in the Airstream application and not any other applications of this regulator.
- F. Owner Notifications. Airstream will begin notifying owners within three weeks pending NHTSA approval. An owner's letter will be submitted for approval.
- G. Dealer Notifications. Airstream will begin notifying dealers within three weeks pending NHTSA approval. A dealer's letter will be submitted for approval.
- H. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Airstream will be filing quarterly reports in connection with this recall campaign.
- I. 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 937-596-796. or Terry Coleman, Airstream, at 937-538-1268.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick  
Thor Industries  
Standards Compliance Manager