



December 23, 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 vehicle bike racks 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 bike racks distributed by Airstream.

Model

Carry Bike by Fiamma – Flying Cloud & International Model # 209397

The total number of bike racks subject to this recall campaign is 623.

These bike rack were distributed between January 2012 and December 2013.

- B. Description of Defect. Airstream developed with Fiamma an aftermarket bike rack to be installed on the rear of its Airstream Travel Trailers. When installed and loaded with bicycles, the bike rack can block the clear path to exit on the outside of the trailer if a trailer is equipped with a secondary emergency exit on the rear wall of the trailer. In an emergency situation where exit out of the rear secondary exit is required an obstruction could lead to personal injury of the owner.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. On December 10th, Airstream received an inquiry online via their customer support portal. This inquiry alerted Airstream to the fact that when their bike rack was installed and loaded with bicycles, it created an obstruction at the rear secondary exit of the owner's trailer and that an owner should be warned about this potential condition.
- D. Remedying of Defect. The remedy is to notify the purchasers of the bike racks that a loaded rack can obstruct a clear path to exit on the outside of the trailer if the rack is installed below

a rear secondary exit. In addition to the notice, each owner will be supplied with two warning labels with installation instructions, one on the rack and one inside of the trailer at the rear secondary exit. These labels and instructions will be added to bike racks in production and inventory available for sale.

- E. Owner Notifications. Airstream will begin notifying owners within three weeks pending NHTSA approval. An owner's letter will be submitted for approval.
- F. Dealer Notifications. Airstream will begin notifying dealers within three weeks pending NHTSA approval. A dealer's letter will be submitted 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 937-596-796. or Terry Coleman, Airstream, at 937-538-1268.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager