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14V-476
(5 pages)



August 4, 2014

Via E-Mail

Receipt Confirmation Requested

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Att: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Grand Design RV
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

In accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, this report serves as notification to the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Fifth-Wheel Toy-Hauler Travel Trailers manufactured by Grand Design RV.

- I. **Final Stage Manufacturer:**
Grand Design RV, LLC
11333 County Road 2
Middlebury, IN 46540
Vehicle Brand: Grand Design

Component Manufacturer:
Lippert Components, Inc.
2703 College Avenue
Goshen, IN 46528
Contact: Byron Chartier, Quality Director
Telephone: 574-535-1125

11333 County Road 2, Middlebury, IN 46540
Phone: 574-825-8000, Fax: 574-825-9700
granddesignrv.com

Contact Information for Inquiries:

Jerry McCarthy, Grand Design RV
11333 County Road 2
Middlebury, IN 46540
Telephone: 574-825-8000 x-2008 Fax: 574-825-9700
e:mail: jmccarthy@granddesignrv.com

II. **Identification of Recall Population & Size:**

The subject recall involves the following Fifth-Wheel trailers built by Grand Design RV:

Make: Grand Design

Model: Momentum 355TH, 380TH, 385TH

Model Year: 2014

Production Dates: 6/24/13 to 3/21/14

VIN Range: 573FM4021E1100707 to 573FM432X1101902

The total number of fifth-wheel travel trailers subject to this recall is **356**. Grand Design believes all of the units in this recall population contain the suspect part. Recall population was determined by the time frame the suspect component was purchased from Lippert Components (which started with the first unit produced on 6/24/13) through 3/21/14. After this date Lippert began supplying a different version of the suspect part for production.

Recall population is different from similar vehicles within the build range because it includes only those vehicles that were built 8,000 lb. axles.

III. **Description of Defect:**

It has been decided that under certain heavy load situations and/or rough terrain conditions that the "Correct Track" suspension bolt that connects the axle springs to the frame can shear, causing the axle spring to detach from the frame hanger or "shackle". *See attached photos of suspect part & failed part.* If the suspension bolt shears and the spring detaches from the hanger the potential exists for loss of control of the vehicle which could result in a crash creating the possibility of injury or death.

IV. **Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists:**

Grand Design RV has received a total of seven (7) reports where the suspect bolt sheared while the vehicle was in transit. There have been no reports of any crash, injury or death in any of the reported incidents. Shortly after the first reports were received Grand Design notified Lippert Components of the failures. Samples of sheared bolts were retrieved and sent to Lippert for testing & evaluation. Lippert reported back that their testing was inconclusive.

Grand Design decided at that point, in the interest of public safety, to immediately launch a recall of all Momentum vehicles built with the suspect bolt.

Chronology of Events:

<u>Unit VIN</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>How First Reported</u>
573FM432XE1 [REDACTED]	4/7/14	Phone Call – Bolt Failure
573FM4320E1 [REDACTED]	5/12/14	Phone Call– Bolt Failure
573FM4322E1 [REDACTED]	6/12/14	Phone Call– Bolt Failure
573FM4328E1 [REDACTED]	6/16/14	Phone Call– Bolt Failure
573FM4324E1 [REDACTED]	6/30/14	Phone Call– Bolt Failure
Notified LCI	6/30/14	E-Mail
Initial Report Back From LCI	7/7/14	E-Mail
573FM4320E1 [REDACTED]	7/17/14	Repair Order – Lippert Repaired– Bolt Failure
Meeting with LCI	7/28/14	Testing Inconclusive per LCI
	7/29/14	Grand Design Decides to Initiate a Safety Recall
573FM4321E1101237	7/30/14	Phone Call– Bolt Failure

V. **Remedy of Defect:**

Grand Design will launch a Recall Campaign to remedy the subject safety defect that involves owner notification, inspection & replacement of the “Correct Track” bolt. *See attached photo of remedy part.* The remedy part has a shorter thread depth that falls outside the spring hanger or “shackle” bracket, eliminating force on the treaded portion of the suspect bolts.

VI. **Owner Notification:**

Grand Design will notify owners of the fifth-wheel “toy-hauler” trailers of the safety defect beginning in early August 2014 pending NHTSA approval. All mailings will be completed within 5 days of NHTSA approval. A draft copy of the Owner Notification Letter and mailing envelope will be provided to NHTSA within 30 days and prior to distribution. The Owner Notification Letter will indicate to owner’s that the defect will be corrected at no expense. Instructions will also be provided addressing reimbursement to owner’s if they paid to have the repairs completed.

VII. **Dealer Notification:**

Grand Design will notify its dealers of the safety defect at the same time as the Owner Notification Letter is distributed in August 2014 and be completed within the same time frame as above. A draft copy of the Dealer Letter will be forwarded to NHTSA for approval within 30 days and prior to release. This letter will be mailed and transmitted electronically to all dealers.

VIII. **Quarterly Reporting Requirements:**

Grand Design will be filing quarterly reports as required by Title 49 Part 573.7 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

IX. **Campaign Number:**

Grand Design's internal number for this campaign is 910002.

If you need additional information pertaining to this safety defect notice please feel free to contact me at the phone number or e-mail address provided above.

Sincerely,



Jerry McCarthy
Grand Design RV, LLC

ATTACHMENT

Suspect Part



Suspect Part Failure



Remedy Part

