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By Recall Mangement Division at 1:07 pm, Aug 13, 2014

14V-499
(7 pages)



A Division of Forest River, Inc.

August 13, 2014

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility & Reports form documenting a recall being performed by the Coachmen RV Class C Division of Forest River Inc. and supporting documents.

Please forward any questions and/or correspondence to ross@forestriverinc.com and:

Coachmen RV
Attn: Ron Ross, Plant 210
PO Box 30
Middlebury, IN 46540

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Ross".

Ronald Ross
Service & Warranty Manager
Coachmen RV Class C Division of Forest River, Inc.
(574) 825-8602

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports

On May 12, 2014 the Coachmen RV Class C Division of Forest River discovered a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 **Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports**.

Date this report was prepared: August 13, 2014

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

**Coachmen RV Division of Forest River Inc.
423 N. Main St., Bldg. 210
Middlebury, IN 46540**

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

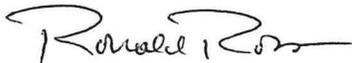
Ronald Ross, Service & Warranty Manager

Telephone Number: 574-825-8602 Fax No.: 574-825-8321

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Ronald Ross, Service & Warranty Manager

Signed:



I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make: Coachmen RV Model Years Involved: 2012-2015 Model: PRISM

Production Dates: Beginning: 07/2011 Ending: 05/2014

VIN Range: Beginning: 5ZTCPRL04CA404263 Ending: 5ZTCPRL08FA00068

Vehicle Type: Motor Home Body Style: Class C

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: The ASME LP tank support braces will be located on top of the floor braces and/or welded on three (3) sides of the support brace where it connects with the main floor outriggers.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.

3.8%

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

| <u>Model</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| PRISM | 2012 | 29 |
| | 2013 | 53 |
| | 2014 | 122 |
| | 2015 | 52 |

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 256

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined – in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles;

The LP tank mounting system is unique to the 2150LE Prism model, other makes and models have floor mounted LP tanks.

Start: Job 1 for the Coachmen 2150LE Prism

Final: Units shipped prior to the discovery date .

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

Due to improper weld location on ASME LP tank support braces, the weld may fail resulting in the dropping and possible loos of the ASME LP tank. There is a risk of a potential fire or explosion if the failure occurs in transit.

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

Improper location of the welds securing the LP tank support braces to the main floor outriggers.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Weld failure may cause excessive wear on the other securement welds that exceed testing criteria and total failure of one or both sides of the support brace securement may cause one side and/or both sides the tank to drop. The tank could break loose completely from the motor home being subjected to contact with the road or ground surface. Such contact may result in a breach of the LP tank structure resulting in the loss of LP fuel and the potential for spark and combustion.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Cracks or loosening of the weld securement may be noticed during refilling process or annual maintenance. If it breaks, the support(s) will come loose from the main floor outrigger.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

N/A

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier.

N/A

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

Coachmen received a communication date May 5, 2014 from a retail customer showing a failure of the support braces and the LP tank hanging down on one end. No other evidence of damage to the LP tank or motor home was noted. The email was subsequently forwarded to the Engineering group for review. On May 12th, it was determined that a defect in the weld securement application. Manufacturing did not follow welding guidelines and specifications as noted on chassis modification print. Subsequent investigation indicated no determination could be made regarding a starting date (e.g. new employee, change in specification). No warranty data existed for the described failure and there had not been any prior contact with Customer Service, Engineering, Sales, or Manufacturing noting any similar defect

or failure at this location. Only one report with no accident, injury, fatality. Repair reimbursement to be filed for customer.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchaser's and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

The customer must contact a Coachmen dealer to have the recall repair kit installed free of charge, parts & labor. If the customer has already experienced the same condition and has paid to have it repaired, the original receipts and/or other adequate proof of payment along with a description of condition and repair can be sent to Coachmen RV Plant 210 Service, PO Box 30, Middlebury, IN 46540 for reimbursement.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between recall condition and the remedy.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

In accordance with Chrysler's notification of Recall H44. See attached.

V. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Purchasers and/or Dealers of affected vehicles (11) were notified via letter sent January 8, 2010.