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December 24, 2002

Subject: TSB No. 12989, BSN 147, "Regarding Request for Field Input to Engineering for Vehicles Exhibiting a Lack of On-Center Steering Feel and/or Steering Wander, or a Constant Pull to Left or Right". *TT.

Ref: a. TSB No. 6684, BSN 107.

b. TSB No. 14570, BSN 179.

c. Woodalla.com, Forum, Tech Issues, Page 1, "Steersafe, 'Wort the the \$\$.'"(sic).

d. Camping World Catalog, Vol. 1, Edition1, 2003, Pages 64 and 65.

Dear NHTSA,

My interpretation of the subject TSB summary description is a request for information regarding steering wandering in Ford Superduty F Series chassis. Please include the following in your data or initiate corrective action, as applicable.

I purchased a new, 2001 Coachmen Aurora motor home on March 6, 2001. The chassis is a 2000 Ford F53 chassis with a gas powered, fuel injected, V-10, 6.8 Liter engine and automatic transmission. The vehicle has anti-lock brakes, cruise control and rear, single axle, dual wheel drive. The vehicle presently has 23,400 miles and is under a Ford 3 year or 36000 mile warranty. This vehicle has always had some degree of steering wandering which appears to have remained constant, so far. The wandering is tolerable on a smooth road, but requires constant steering compensation to hold the vehicle in the middle of the travel lane and on a rough road, under windy conditions or when being passed by trucks increased compensation is required. After the local Ford dealer road tested the vehicle, they said the steering wandering was not excessive and was normal for this vehicle. I still feel the steering wander is excessive and contributes to fatigue and excessive tire and component wear.

Since finding the subject TSB and the referenced TSBs, I have also found Refs. c. and d.

Ref. c. is a question about adding steering stabilizers to a motor home and responses by motor home owners who have added steering stabilizers to their motor homes and their evaluation of the effect on the steering control of their motor homes.

Ref. d. offers a number of add-on steering stabilizing components for motor home chassis of different makes and models for several past years. This leads me to believe that steering wander is not a new problem with motor home chassis and a design deficiency exists which could be a safety problem.

If I can assist you in this situation, please contact me,

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]