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May 31, 2005

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NHTSA Headquarters
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington DC 20590

Subject: Motorhome Windshield Safety

Dear Sir,

Attached is a copy of a letter I sent to Tiffin Motorhome, Inc. involving what I believe to be a safety issue. The passengers side half of my windshield separated from the centerpost. When examined by a windshield repair technician, he stated that he did not observe any mechanical fasteners holding the windshield in place, nor did he find any adhesive in the rubber like seal holding the windshield in place.

I believe that if I had not examined the windshield to detect the source of the whistling noise I suddenly heard the results could have been deadly. While road vibration could be a contributing factor to loosening the windshield, I find it difficult to believe that parking the motorhome on a slanted surface would cause the windshield to drift to one side.

I do believe this is a serious safety issue that needs to be addressed by the motorhome industry. I also firmly believe that the use of mechanical fasteners and adhesives would greatly reduce the chances of a windshield coming loose under normal driving conditions.

I would appreciate if your agency would look into this matter.

Respectfully,

Moreno Valley, CA

Edison
6/13/05

May 31, 2005

Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc.
105 Second Street NW
Red Bay, AL 25582

RE: Potential Windshield Safety Problem
1997 Allegro Bay VIN 3FCMF53G3VJ [REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

On May 9, 2005 our motorhome developed a very loud whistling noise emanating from the front of the motorhome. Close examination revealed that the right side, (passenger side) windshield half had separated from the centerpost at the bottom center and that the windshield had drifted to the right.

I contacted a local windshield repair company and they responded on May 11, 2005. The repair technician reported the following conditions: 1) there are no mechanical fasteners holding the windshield to the motorhome body, 2) there is no adhesive holding the windshield into the rubber like seal surrounding the windshield. The technician went on to say that the windshield separation was a problem that was caused in part by road vibration and in part by parking the motorhome on a slanted surface. I can understand why the windshield could be affected by road vibration. But I have a hard time accepting that the windshield would drift to one side because it was parked on a slanted surface. I believe that if mechanical fasteners and adhesives were used to secure the windshield it would not separate from the center post and drift to one side.

Fortunately, in this instance, no one was killed or injured. Hopefully the repairs effected will securely hold the windshield in place.

There is no warning in any of the literature I received with the motorhome that states that parking on a slanted surface may cause windshield separation. Again I feel that the use of mechanical fasteners and adhesives would eliminate or greatly reduced this problem and I also feel that this problem should be addressed by the Tiffin Motor home Company. If I had not had the problem fixed as soon as I noticed it, the windshield could have come completely loose and injured or killed anyone in the passenger seat.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
Moreno Valley, CA
[REDACTED]