



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4238)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received: 105 OCT -6 AM 6:01
Repository:
Reference No.: 10134812

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name: [REDACTED] Daytime Telephone Number: [REDACTED] E-mail Address: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Evening Telephone Number: [REDACTED]
City: TEMECULA State: CA Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner: _____ Date: / /

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side: 1AU303J3 [REDACTED]
1AU3030303
Make: ALFA LEISURE MODEL #303 Model: TRAVEL TRAILER 5TH WHEEL Model Year: 9989 2005
Date Purchased: 30-APR-05 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number: MIKE THOMPSON RV 909 825-2433 Engine: No: Cylinders: N/A Fuel Type: N/A
Original Owner: Dealer's City: COLTON State: CA Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Transmission Type: N/A Antilock Brakes: Powertrain: N/A Vehicle Component Code: 031100 SERVICE BRAKES, ELECTRIC
 Cruise Control Multiple Failure: X 4 TIMES ALMOST LOSING CONTROL OF TRAILER

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s): 15-MAY-2006 Failure Mileage: WE ARE LESS THAN 500 MILES ON THE TRAILER Failure Speed: 25 TO 35
DEXTER ELECTRIC SOME 6000 AXLES + BRAKES

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make: _____ Tire Model (Name or Number): _____ Tire Size (Example: P215/65R16): _____
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036): _____ Original Equipment Prior Repair Failure Location: _____
Tire Component Code: _____ Tire Failure Type: _____

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make: _____ Date Manufactured: _____ Model No./Name: _____
Seat Type: _____ Installation System: _____
Child Seat Component Code: _____ Failed Part: _____

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please check all that apply: Crash(es), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).)

Crash: Yes No Fire: Yes No
Number of Persons Injured: 0 Number of Deaths: 0 Reported to Police: N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).
Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

DAD: THE CONTACT OWNS A 2005 ALFA LEISURE INCORPORATED MODEL 303 FIFTH WHEEL TRAILER. HE OWNED THIS TRAILER FOR 120 DAYS. THE CONTACT STATED THAT THE BRAKES WERE INADEQUATE. THE TRAILER WEIGHED 18,500 POUNDS. WHEN THE BRAKES GET HOT THE BRAKES DID NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY. THE CONTACT ALMOST HAD THREE ACCIDENTS WITHIN THE LAST 90 DAYS. IT OCCURRED WHILE ON VACATION AND DRIVING AT 25 MPH. THE CONTACT'S FRIEND WAS PULLING A TRAILER BEHIND HIM AND THE BRAKES WERE SMOKING/GETTING HOT AND WERE ABOUT TO MALFUNCTION, THE CONTACT HAS ANOTHER FRIEND THAT PURCHASED A SIMILAR TRAILER AND THE BRAKES FAILED BECAUSE THEY OVERHEATED. THIS PROBLEM DID NOT OCCUR ON LEVEL GROUND, BUT HAD TO WORK THE BRAKES HARD WHILE COMING DOWN A HILL FOR A PERIOD. THE MANUFACTURER DID NOT PUT IN BIG ENOUGH BRAKES FOR THIS TRAILER. THE MANUFACTURER WAS AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM AND DID NOT WANT TO FIX THIS TRAILER BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE TO FIX ALL TRAILERS. THE HEAD OF THE WARRANTY DEPARTMENT TOLD THE CONTACT THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO SET A PRECEDENT BY REPAIRING THESE TRAILERS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT TO SHOW THAT THERE WERE LIABLE. THERE ARE THREE AXLES UNDER THIS TRAILER WEIGHING 6000 POUNDS. *AK

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your responses may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your responses, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

ALFA LEISURE IS USING DEXTER AXLE ON THIS TRAILER. AFTER LOOKING AT THE BRAKE SIDE AFTER TOWING THIS TRAILER AT APPROX 14,000 LBS WE NEW WE HAD A PROBLEM. THE FIRST TRIP OUT WE WENT 2500 MILES AND KNOWING THAT THE BRAKES ON THE TRAILER WERE NOT ABLE TO HANDLE THE WEIGHT AFTER INSPECTION THE FRONT SIDE HAD TO BE REPAIRED. THE MIDDLE AND REAR AXCLE WERE SEVERELY WORN. ALFA STATES THAT THE GROSS TOWING WEIGHT IS 18,500 LBS IF WE HAD OF TOWED THIS TRAILER AT THAT WEIGHT WE WOULD OF HAD A MAJOR ACCIDENT. WE WERE NOT TOLD THAT WE COUDNT TOW THIS TRAILER OVER ROADS WITH DOWN GRADES. AFTER SPEAKING WITH A FEW RV MECHANICS THAT TOLD US THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE TOO SMALL BRAKES THAT ALFA HAD PUT ON TRAILER, WE CONTACTED ALFA, EVEN WITH A 1 YEAR WRITTEN WARRANTY THEY WILL NOT HONOR THAT WORD. ABOUT ONE MONTH AFTER

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO 73173 WASHINGTON, D.C.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL. HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-216
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590



**VEHICLE
OWNER'S**

QUESTIONNAIRE

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

**TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS
COMPLETE THIS FORM
ON**

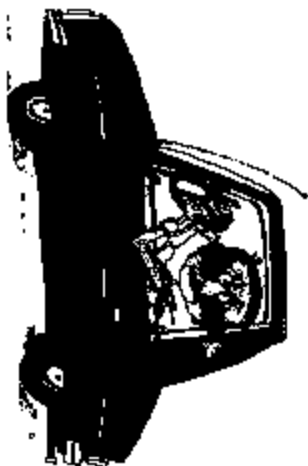
DASH2DOT

and dial toll free at

1-888-DASH-2-DOT

1-888-327-4236

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
(DASH) 2 DOT



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WE PURCHASE THIS TRAILER A PAIR OF OURS PURCHASE A MODEL 303 LIKE OURS. HIS NAME IS [REDACTED] HE LIVES IN BOULDER CITY NV. HOME [REDACTED] IS HAVING THE SAME PROBLEM TRYING TO STOP HIS MODEL 303. WE FEEL THAT ALFA LEISURE HAS PLACED THE SMALLEST AXCLE AND BRAKES ON THERE TRAILER TO CUT THERE MANUFACTURING COST. WITH THE HIGH PRICE OF FUEL THESE DAYS THERE INDUSTRY IS NOT DOING WELL. WE FEEL THAT IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE ASAP THERE WILL BE A ACCIDENT OR A DEATH. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A DEFECT INVESTIGATION OPENED UP ON THIS CASE BEFORE SOMEONE IS HURT. THE NEXT SIZE DEXTER AXCLES ARE RATED 7000 LBS WITH 8000 LBS DISC BRAKES, THESE ARE WHAT WE HAVE REQUESTED ALFA LEISURE TO HAVE REPLACED ON OUR TRAILER. WE TOLD ALFA THAT IF THEY WERE AGAIND TO MAKE THESE REPAIRS THAT A OPTION IS TO BUY BACK THE TRAILER. WE TOLD ALFA THAT WE WOULD PAY 50% OF THE COST TO MAKE THESE REPAIRS SO WE CAN USE THIS TRAILER AGAIN. I FEEL AT THIS TIME ALFA IS AVOIDING MY PHONE CALLS. DANNY HETZLER IN THE WARRANTY DEPT. HAS BEEN VERY NASTY TO US. WE DID NOT WANT TO SEEK LEGAL COUNCIL TO CORRECT THIS MAJOR PROBLEM ON THE ALFA LEISURE BRAKE SYSTEM. THE MAIN THING WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS A INVESTIGATION BE OPENED UP BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT. BOB SQUIRES THANK YOU FOR THE CALL LAST WEEK, I HOPE WE CAN RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM TOGETHER,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
TENCULA. CA. [REDACTED]

HOME

FAX

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
VIN LAST FIVE DIGIT [REDACTED]