



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
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received

2008 JAN 24 PM 12:53
04-JAN-2008

Repository

Reference No.
10213675

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
City BRIGHTON State MI Zip Code [REDACTED]

Daytime Telephone Number [REDACTED]

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

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
16F62F5R [REDACTED]

Make CARRIAGE Model COMPASS Model Year 2006

Date Purchased 29 JUN-06 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number WOODLANE TRAVEL WOODLAND TRAVEL Engine: No: Cylinders Fuel Type:

Original Owner Dealer's City GRAND RAPIDS State MI Zip Code

Transmission Type Antilock Brakes Powertrain UNKNOWN
 Cruise Control

Vehicle Component Code 199000 TIRES:PRESSURE MONITORING AND REGULATING SYSTEMS
Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s) 29-DEC-2007 Failure Mileage 12800 Failure Speed 65MPH

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make ~~Power King~~ Power KING Tire Model (Name or Number) ~~TOYOTA~~ TOMAX Tire Size (Example P215/65R15) 10-00-20 LT235/80R16 E
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036) 0HMJ4605 Original Equipment Prior Repair Failure Location: DRIVER SIDE REAR
Tire Component Code 199000 TIRES:PRESSURE MONITORING AND REGULATING SYSTEMS Tire Failure Type BLOWOUT

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 describe in detail the incident(s), 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).

TL*THE CONTACT OWNS A 2006 CARRIAGE COMPASS. THE VEHICLE HAS POWER KING TOMAX ST, SIZE ST235/80/R16 TIRES (NA). ONE OF THE TIRES EXPLODED AND DAMAGED HIS FIFTH WHEEL VEHICLE. THE CONTACT IMMEDIATELY PULLED OFF THE ROAD. HE SENT A LETTER TO THE TRAILER AND TIRE MANUFACTURERS, BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE. THE TIRES HAVE ALWAYS HAD SCHEDULED ROUTINE MAINTENANCE. AT THE TIME OF THE FAILURE, THE TIRE PRESSURE WAS 80 PSI. NO OTHER VEHICLE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. THE CURRENT AND FAILURE MILEAGES OF THE TIRE AND VEHICLE WERE 12,800.

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 response 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 response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

January 9, 2008

NHTSA

Reference # 10213675

Tire Failure of Power King TowMax tire on 12/29/07. This is the original tire and wheel as received from the factory on our 2006 Carriage Compass fifth wheel trailer. Enclosed are a copy of the letter to Carriage Inc. and some photos of the tire. I still have the tire and can make it available for inspection.

The main question I have not been able to get answers too is how can LT235/80R16 load range E tires from China be rated at 3520 lbs when all other tires of the same size and also LT235/85R16 E manufactured by major tire companies all are rated at 3040 lbs. I am replacing the tires with a Good Year load range G rated at 3750 lbs. You will also find a CAT scale weight slip showing I was 3040 lbs under the trailer axle rating.

January 2, 2008

Glen Cushman
Carriage, Inc,
P. O. Box 246
Millersburg, IN 46543

I am writing to bring to your attention a serious design flaw with my Carriage Trailer. The trailer is a 2006 Compass 35KS3, VIN 16F62F5R66 [REDACTED] purchased in June 06 from Woodland RV in Grand Rapids, MI. On Saturday December 29 we experienced a tire failure on the left rear tire; this was not a tread failure but an explosion. When the tire came apart it tore the metal liner at the top of the wheel well and the fender trim from the trailer. Had this been all that happened you would not be receiving this correspondence.

Attached to the top of the wheel well liner is an electrical feed which supplies power to everything in the slide out, both 110 volt and 12 volt circuits. When the wheel well liner was torn out by the tire it also tore out this electrical cable. I don't know how much additional damage may also be related to this but many of the 12 volt circuits no longer work, such as all the outside compartment lights. Also the electrical outlet at the bottom rear of the island cabinet in the kitchen area was pulled by the wiring and the island is now twisted and is against the dining table when the slide is in and the cover plate for the outlet was popped off. The wiring harness did pull apart at the plugs which feed the slide out, which I hope means there is no damage inside the slide out wall, and the harness tore through the aluminum panel, which can be seen when the slide is open, and pulled the trailer side of the connector from the harness. All of this electrical damage could have been avoided if the wire harness was on the inside of the frame rail instead of over the wheel well. This would not require any more cable length and would protect the wiring from damage. Any designer should know you do not put a wire harness or fuel line where a tire failure would damage it.

This incident happened while we were on our way to our winter destination in Texas. As we had discovered a low tire, when checking tire pressure, before starting out the morning of the 29th in Kentucky we changed the tire and installed the spare tire on the right front. When the left rear exploded we were now without a spare so we contacted Good Sam Road Service who sent a tire service with a new tire and they installed it on the side of the road. They were not able to find a tire the same size, ST235/80R16 load range E rated at 3520 lbs. as this is not a common size or rating, and is also an off brand imported tire from China. I find it hard to believe a quality trailer manufacturer like Carriage uses off brand tires. I note your Carry-Lite models use Good Year tires with a higher weight rating yet the axles are rated the same.

The exploded tire was wrapped around the axle and had to be cut off, and the wire harness was also wrapped around the axle and also had to be cut. The brake system wires were not damaged. I am thankful the tire service is used to dealing with heavy truck tires along the highway as he had the air tools and air compressor needed to remove the tire from the axle. We initially thought we could continue to our destination in Texas, so we continued to our destination for the night in Brinkley, Arkansas. At the destination we determined we could not stay in the trailer and moved into a hotel room. After making several phone calls we decided to return home for the repairs. I have been doing business with Woodland RV since 1980 for service, parts and new Airstream trailers, and this is why I

purchased my Carriage trailer from them. They are a great dealer and one of the few RV dealers who I trust. The trailer will be taken there for repair by January 7 at the latest and, of course, you may inspect it there. I also still have the tire and will make it available for inspection.

I know your first reaction is this is not warranty problem, but this incident is related to what I consider a serious design problem. You also may want to blame this on under inflation or overloading. Of course I have no way to prove I checked the tire pressure the morning of the 29th, but I do check my tire pressures every morning. I also keep a daily mileage log and on the 29th the mileage at the start of the day was 12,800 miles. I also weigh the trailer on each long trip to make sure I am not overloaded. I did not weigh the trailer this time until the 31st, on the way home, but you can see from the attached CAT scale slip I was 3040 lbs. under the axle weight rating.

As I stated in my opening, had the wire harness not been damaged, I would not be communicating with you. I now feel the cancelling of the trip and return home are a direct result of the wire harness routing and therefore expect Carriage Inc. to be responsible for all repairs. In addition I expect you to pay for the following,

1. All repairs including routing the new wire harness where it will not be damaged in the future by a tire failure.
2. A new set of Good Year LT235/85R16 load range G tires mounted and balanced as installed on the Carri-Lite model.
3. Fuel bills for the trip out and back \$400
4. Loss of \$100 deposit at the resort where we were to spend the winter. If the trailer is repaired quickly and the resort allows us in under our current deposit I will forego this item.
5. Hotel bills for two nights when we could not use the trailer. Brinkley, AR. \$65.51 and Franklin, OH. \$65.13 for a total of \$130.64

Attached you will find 21 photos and a description list, and a copy of the CAT scale slip and bills from the two hotels.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Brighton, MI.

Home [REDACTED]

Cell [REDACTED]

cc.

Don Emahiser, Carriage Inc.
Craig Carlson, Woodland RV

51963057
TICKET NUMBER



CERTIFIED AUTOMATED TRUCK SCALE

CAT SCALE COMPANY
P.O. BOX 630
WALCOTT, IA 52773
(563) 284-6263
www.catscale.com

THE CAT SCALE GUARANTEE
The CAT Scale Company guarantees that our scales will give an accurate weight. What makes us different from other scale companies is that we back up our guarantee with cash.®

"WEIGH WHAT WE SAY OR WE PAY"®

If you get an overweight fine from the state AFTER one of our CAT Scales showed a legal weight, we will immediately check our scale and we will:

- (1) Reimburse you for the cost of the overweight fine if our scale is wrong, **OR**
- (2) A representative of CAT Scale Company will appear in court **WITH** the driver as an expert witness if we believe our scale was correct.

IF YOU SHOULD GET AN OVERWEIGHT FINE, YOU SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING TO GET THE PROBLEM RESOLVED:

- 1) Post bond and request a court date.
- 2) Call CAT Scale Company direct 24 hours a day at 1-877-CAT-SCALE (Toll Free).
- 3) **IMMEDIATELY** send a copy of the citation, CAT Scale Ticket, your name, company, address, and phone number to CAT Scale Company Attn: Operations Manager.

* The four weights shown below are separate weights. The GROSS WEIGHT is the CERTIFIED WEIGHT and was weighed on a full length platform scale.

DATE:

12-31-2007

SCALE

549

STEER AXLE

4460 lb

DRIVE AXLE

6020 lb

TRAILER AXLE

10960 lb

PILOT OIL

I 75 EXIT 36 HWY 123 * GROSS WEIGHT

21440 lb

FRANKLIN OH

RATINGS
4750 FR
9350 RO
14000 TRP
22000 G

901 LOCATION:
51963057 PUBLIC WEIGHMASTER'S
CERTIFICATE OF
WEIGHT & MEASURE

This is to certify that the following described merchandise was weighed, counted, or measured by a public or deputy weighmaster, and when properly signed and sealed shall be prima facia evidence of the accuracy of the weight shown as prescribed by law.

IMPRINT SEAL HERE
(IF APPLICABLE)

LIVESTOCK, PRODUCE, PROPERTY, COMMODITY, OR ARTICLE WEIGHED FREIGHT ALL KINDS

COMPANY PRIVATE TRACTOR # TRAILER # NA

FEE 8.50 WEIGHMASTER OR WEIGHER SIGNATURE Debbie Borders FULL WEIGH TICKET # (IF REWEIGH)

DRIVER IN TRUCK UNLESS CHECKED HERE: **DEBBIE BORDERS**

WEIGH NUMBER
3057







