



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

2008 NOV 19 PM 7:11

**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

17-APR-2008

Repository

Reference No.  
10224786

**OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)**

Name

Address

City FOND DU LAC

State WI

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

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

4X4TFLG2X60

Make

FOREST RIVER

Model

TRAVEL TRAILER

Model Year

2006

Date Purchased  
02-JUL-05

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number  
PAUL'S RV AND TRAILER

Engine:

No: Cylinders

Fuel Type:

Original Owner

Dealer's City  
MORRISON

State  
WI

Zip Code

Transmission Type

Antilock Brakes

Cruise Control

Powertrain

UNKNOWN

Vehicle Component Code

023000 SUSPENSION: MULTIPLE AXLE

Multiple Failure: 3

**FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION**

Incident Date(s)  
09-JUL-2006

Failure Mileage  
1500

Failure Speed

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE**

Tire Make

Tire Model (Name or Number)

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

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 describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash

Yes  No

Fire

Yes  No

Number of Persons Injured

Number of Deaths

Reported to Police

0

0

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 FOREST RIVER TRAVEL TRAILER. THE CONTACT PURCHASED THE VEHICLE ON JULY 2, 2005. IN JULY OF 2006, THE FRONT DRIVER SIDE WHEEL BEARINGS FAILED AND NEEDED REPAIR. THE REPAIR WAS COVERED UNDER WARRANTY BY FOREST RIVER RV. IN JULY OF 2007, THE ENTIRE AXLE ON THE REAR DRIVER SIDE WAS BENT AND NEEDED TO BE REPAIRED, BUT WAS NOT COVERED UNDER WARRANTY. THE DEALER STATED THAT THE FAILURE WAS A RESULT OF POOR MAINTENANCE. IN OCTOBER OF 2007, THE ENTIRE FRONT PASSENGER SIDE AXLE NEEDED TO BE REPAIRED AND WAS ALSO NOT COVERED UNDER WARRANTY. THE CONTACT STATED THAT ALL OF THESE FAILURES WERE NOT THE RESULT OF POOR MAINTENANCE OR MISUSE OF THE VEHICLE. HE BELIEVES THE FAILURES ARE DUE TO A MANUFACTURER DEFECT. NO OTHER VEHICLE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. THE FAILURE MILEAGE WAS 1,500 AND CURRENT MILEAGE WAS 2,900.

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.

November 12, 2008

I submitted these additional supplements to you NHTSA shortly after April 17, 2008, but apparently they were not received. Therefore I'm resubmitting them. Please note that I still have the defective axles as they were when removed from the vehicle.



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Consumer:

NVS-216rbf

As a result of your report to the Vehicle Safety Hotline (VSH), we have recorded that report on the enclosed Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ) form. Please review the form and make changes, additions and corrections as necessary. Additionally, please provide a more detailed description of the failures(s) you reported that you believe relevant to safety. Also, if available, include copies of repair invoices, letters to the manufacturer, or any other document related to the problem(s) you reported. If a crash or fire occurred, include a copy of the police or fire department report.

It is helpful to be as thorough as possible in your report so that our ability to use your report will be maximized. If you do not have the information, it is not necessary to complete all the boxes. However, it is very difficult to identify the scope of a vehicle problem unless the vehicle identification number (VIN) is known. The VIN is located inside the vehicle on the dashboard adjacent to the left (driver's side) of the windshield pillar and on the drivers' door or the drivers door jam. It may also be listed on the dealer's repair invoices. When reporting a tire problem, the brand name, tire name and complete tire size should be included. If possible also provide the DOT tire identification number. It is usually located near the rim flange of the tire on either side of the tire.

The Privacy Act prohibits our agency from identifying you to the manufacturer without your permission. If you wish to give us that permission, please mark the appropriate authorization box and sign the form to allow us to provide your name to the manufacturer. The information you provide may assist the manufacturer and NHTSA in determining if a safety-related defect exists.

Any information provided is entirely voluntary. There is no consequence or penalty of any kind if you do not wish to provide it. We seek this information to develop both statistical and investigative evidence that will help identify potential safety related problems in vehicle or vehicle equipment, e.g., tires, child safety seats, jacks, etc.

When completed, please fold and staple or tape the form so that the pre-addressed portion of the form is on the outside. If a larger envelope is used, tape the VOQ form to the larger envelope so that the pre-addressed portion of the form is showing.

If further assistance is needed, please contact the VSH at their toll-free number, 1-888-327-4236.  
Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ronald B. Fields, Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Enforcement

Enclosure: VOQ



This complaint is primarily against Al KO Kober Corporation, manufacturer of axles.  
The axles were placed on Flagstaff travel trailers manufactured by Forest River

Al Ko Kober Corp.  
21611 Protecta Drive  
Elkhart, IN 46516-9543

Forest River Inc.  
55470 C.R. 1  
P.O. Box 3030,  
Elkhart, IN 46515

Vehicle

2006 Flagstaff Travel Trailer, model 831BHSS  
VIN: 4X4TFLG2X6E \_\_\_\_\_

July 2, 2005 Purchased trailer from Paul's RV in Morrison WI

July 12, 2006 First wheel bearing (left front) went out,  
repaired at Lake Country RV, Wis. Rapids  
Covered by warranty

MILEAGE ESTIMATE 1400 miles

July 11, 2007 Second wheel bearing (left rear) went out,  
axle replaced, repaired at Horn's RV,  
Sheboygan. Warranty denied.

MILEAGE ESTIMATE 2600 miles

October 24, 2007 Discovered right front wheel out of  
alignment. Taken to Paul's RV  
November 1, 2007, spindle was bent and  
axle was replaced. Warranty denied.

MILEAGE ESTIMATE 2950 miles

TOTAL MILEAGE ESTIMATE 2950 miles

The axles were made by Al Ko Kober Corp. Both axles have been replaced at owner's expense. Al Ko Kober denies defective bearings/axles. **I have recovered both defective axles and have them in my possession.** The ID number on both axles are 265021 CANADA (stamped on each axle). The replacement axles have a riveted ID tag with the following information stamped on it;

Front Axle: Month 12      Year 7  
U3526533 4 3  
Axle capacity (KG) 1591  
Static Load radius 316

Rear Axle: Month 8      Year 7  
U3526533 4 3  
Axle capacity (KG) 1591  
Static Load radius 316

It's totally inappropriate for wheel bearings to fail in such short time and mileage duration. The bent spindle was manufactured or installed in a defective manner. Forest River had defective axles on their 2003 and 2004 models, which were also manufactured by Al Ko Kober Corp. Complaints were field by consumers and Forest River and/or Al Ko Kober replaced these axles. It's unknown if Forest River/Al Ko Kober did so on their own or were ordered to by NHTSA. I suspect the same defect of these axles or possibly these were left over axles and placed into service.

Fond du Lac, WI \_\_\_\_\_  
Ph # \_\_\_\_\_

