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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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RECEIVED - NHTSA

Ronald Medford, Acting Deputy Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Safety Recall 50901-C

Dear Mr. Medford:

We own a 2007 Fleetwood Bounder 32W on a Workhorse chassis (Vehicle ID # 5B4MP67GX73 [REDACTED]). We have driven it almost 16,000 miles and have taken it on numerous long distance trips. We typically tow our 2008 Ford Escape Hybrid when we travel. The car's braking system is activated when we are hauling it to assist in stopping our motor home - car assembly.

We took a short trip from our home in San Diego, CA to Borrego Springs, CA and back on October 17-19, 2009. Our return trip on October 19 was quite eventful. At some point during the trip, both of our rear brake calipers apparently were "dragging," causing excessive heat and loss of effective braking. After returning home, disconnecting the car, and unloading the motor home, I started up the coach to take it to our storage facility and received two warning notices:

BRAKE FAILURE! and CHECK ABS! Both warnings included the exclamation mark!

At that time I tried the brakes and the pedal went to the floor! Absolutely no brakes!

I called Workhorse and they told me they'd tow the coach if necessary to an authorized service center. We discussed my problem over the telephone for maybe 15-20 minutes. Never once during this conversation did the Workhorse representative say "oh, by the way, I'm not surprised that you had this problem because we know our brake calipers drag, causing excessive heat, and potential brake failure." Approximately one hour after returning home - while still talking to the Workhorse representative - the BRAKE FAILURE! light did not appear when I started up the coach. Perhaps the brake fluid was no longer boiling? The CHECK ABS light was still on, but the Workhorse representative said it was safe to drive it with that light on ... so I drove it to the authorized Workhorse dealership, Jimmy Johnson Chevrolet.

Jimmy Johnson Chevrolet "repaired" the coach. Here's what the repair slip said:

Rear brakes are binding
Both rear calipers pistons are binding

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Brake pads scored

Replaced both rear calipers, bleed brakes, H0097=2.7

In talking to the service representative, upon picking up the motor home, he told us that they "repaired" the problem by installing new calipers of the exact same (faulty) design in accordance with Workhorse Brake Recall 50901-C. He had no explanation for why no warning lights or messages had appeared until after we turned off the motor home.

Reflecting upon the latter part of our trip ... which included a mile plus continuous downgrade during which I shifted into 3rd gear ... I recall shooting past where I thought we were going to stop several times. I firmly believe that the only thing that stopped us was the fact that we were towing our car ... I believe that our car stopped both the motor home and itself! Needless to say, once we came to this conclusion we were very shaken. During this trip we did not, at any time, receive any warning lights or messages. It was only after stopping the motor home and restarting the engine that we received any warning.

The Workhorse chassis is an accident waiting to happen ... and not just any accident ... a fatal accident!

We have been informed that once Workhorse has identified "a final remedy" our motor home will be recalled and equipped with properly designed brake calipers. In the meantime we are expected to drive a time bomb!

The Interim Notice for Safety Recall 50901-C tells us to watch for several warnings signs. The first is a distinct "brake burning" smell. Maybe you can smell that when you exit the motor home? Or see if you feel one or more brakes "dragging." When you're pulling a car it's hard to feel a "dragging" brake pad. Or how about the ABS brake light illuminates? Well, that sure would have helped in our case! No light - no warning! Or, this is a good one, smoke coming from the wheel end, noticed when the driver exits the vehicle. Whoops, you have to get out of the motor home - while you're driving perhaps - to check the rear brakes! Or how about a fire? Finally, don't forget to notice a mushy brake pedal. Whoops, I'm towing a car behind me that has properly designed brakes so I don't notice a mushy brake pedal until after I disconnect my car from the motor home.

I am appalled that a federal "safety" agency such as yours is a party to this abuse of trust placed in you by the public. Your actions to condone the Workhorse Interim Notice has placed the lives of thousands of people at risk. The fact that we are two of those people has us afraid to ever drive our motor home again. You and Workhorse have conspired to effectively take our motor home away from us. This is a \$111,000 vehicle that we had planned on enjoying for many years to come. It will now sit in storage until it is safe to drive!

Would you drive a vehicle which is known to have defective brakes with a warning system that doesn't work? Of course you wouldn't, so why do you expect others to do so?

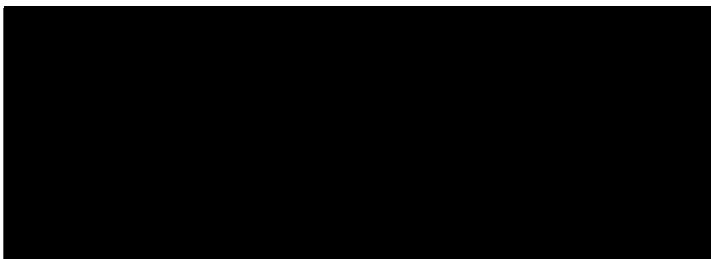
So, you ask, what should the NHTSA do since Workhorse can't seem to identify "a final remedy?" Oh, by the way, the Interim Notice was dated May 2009 ... that's six months ago! I guess the old adage "great things take long time" is correct.

Well, how about demanding that Workhorse recall all defective chasses and replace the entire brake assemblies if that's what it takes to ensure public safety? You are dealing with people's lives here ... this is not some risk management exercise.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Workhorse - what an impressive company that is! We are also sending copies to our Senators and Congressman.

We can only hope that someone along the line realizes that lives are more important than corporate profits and regulatory complicity.

Sincerely,



San Diego, CA

Senator Barbara Boxer (Washington ,DC and San Diego, CA)
Senator Diane Feinstein (Washington, DC and San Diego, CA)
Congressman Brian Bilbray (Washington, DC and Solana Beach, CA)
Workhorse Custom Chassis (Union City, IN)



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Union City, IN 47390 USA

navistar.com

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SAFETY RECALL 50901-C

MAY 2009

INTERIM NOTICE

Dear Workhorse Customer,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements and approval of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

The recall

Workhorse Custom Chassis (Workhorse) has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain W20, W21 and W22 motor home chassis built from July 24, 2000 through December 19, 2007.

Description of defect

Certain RV applications equipped with axles that include Bosch ZOPS or Bosch ZOHT Pin Slide hydraulic disc brakes when combined with occasional or seasonal vehicle operation may experience calipers sticking in the applied position. This can result in abnormal heat generation at the wheel end causing brake drag. Although the driver would normally have warning of the brake drag - if undetected by the driver, the temperature increase at the wheel end can eventually lead to soft pedal conditions due to brake fluid boil, and possible extended stopping distance.

Is my motor home chassis affected?

This brake recall is only for Workhorse W20, W21 and W22 motor home chassis, built from July 24, 2000 through December 19, 2007. Affected owners will be notified based on the VIN and the vehicle build date.

Are there warning indicators that precede a brake failure?

The defective brake calipers on certain motor home chassis may cause hot brakes, brake drag, overheating, melting of the anti-lock brake sensor, and in a small number of cases, boiling brake fluid, which may result in loss of brake function.

There are some related symptoms commonly reported by complainants and verified by field testing that indicate the problem could be developing. These warning signs include the following:

- a. A distinct "brake burning" smell.
- b. One or more brakes "dragging" resulting in the vehicle demanding more throttle application to overcome the drag.
- c. An ABS brake light illuminates, possibly indicating that the ABS sensor has overheated, causing damage, and corrupted the signal at that wheel end.
- d. Smoke coming from the wheel end; this would be noticed during any stop when the driver exits the vehicle.
- e. A small wheel end fire at the wheel end (neither Workhorse nor NHTSA is aware of any fires spreading beyond the brake assembly).
- f. The brake pedal feels mushy or goes to the floor - this is indicative that the brake fluid in the vehicle is possibly boiling and therefore the brake system losing its effectiveness.
- g. Motor homes that are kept in storage for long periods of time or that are driven in moist environment conditions are more likely to be susceptible to failure.

What should I do if I experience any of these indicators?

If you have any of the above symptoms, please pull over and examine the wheel ends for excessive heat. In the event that you do experience symptoms, we would suggest that you contact a Workhorse service center immediately for evaluation and possible temporary repairs. Our service center network has been notified of this problem and can take appropriate action to repair one or more dragging brake calipers until such time that the final remedy can be performed.

INTERIM NOTICE

Why is this an interim letter?

This voluntary recall is a result of an investigation that Workhorse commenced in November 2007, in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Workhorse has decided to recall certain motor home chassis built with the Bosch ZOHT and ZOPS brake calipers from July 24, 2000 through December 19, 2007. When the final remedy is identified, owners will be instructed to bring their vehicles to a Workhorse service center to have the recall performed.

Workhorse has worked diligently with our current brake supplier Bosch, and NHTSA to identify and correct the problem. Significant resources have been allocated to gain a full understanding of the matter. While the problem has now been identified, a final remedy must still be determined. Therefore we are sending this interim letter to alert you about the recall and provide you with instructions for safe driving until such time as the new parts are available.

When will the actual recall letter arrive?

A notification date has not been determined as of the date of this letter. When available, Workhorse will notify you by letter to bring your motor home in for repair. **At that time you should contact your local Workhorse service center and make an appointment, even if you have not experienced any brake warning indicators.**

How will the actual recall work?

Workhorse will notify all owners of the identified vehicles with a letter asking that the owner bring the motor home to a service center when a sufficient number of replacement parts are available. The service center will perform the remedy free of charge. The remedy will not routinely include the installation of new brake linings or rotors or any other part that would be considered maintenance. However, in the event that a vehicle has experienced the condition resulting in overheating and damage to the linings, rotors, or other components, they will also be replaced free of charge.

What will this recall do for me?

In voluntary compliance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, Workhorse will provide a remedy **at no cost to you.**

If you have previously replaced a brake caliper on a motor home chassis involved in this recall, you may be eligible for reimbursement on certain repairs made after November 16, 2007. Please contact your local Workhorse service center or Workhorse Custom Chassis directly. However, Workhorse is not required to reimburse owners for collateral costs associated with a safety recall (e.g., lost wages while the vehicle is being repaired, car rentals, damage caused by the defect, etc.).

There are numerous other causes for caliper failures such as insufficient maintenance, riding the brakes, or overuse of the brakes on long downgrades. Workhorse will not reimburse owners for these type of failures or resulting damage.

Answers to possible questions

- Service Centers capable of performing the brake recall are listed on the website www.workhorse.com. This website will be updated with any new information.
- Workhorse will only tow your unit to complete the brake recall if deemed necessary by Workhorse service personnel.
- Workhorse will not pay for a rental for you as a result of this recall.
- Failures encountered before the new parts become available will be repaired under warranty using the current designed parts.

If you have further questions or need assistance you may contact Workhorse at 877.246.7731. You may also contact the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington DC 20590, or toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1.888.327.4236 (TTY 1.800.424.9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.