

U.S. Department
of TransportationNational Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS

Call: 888-327-4236

Visit: www.safercar.gov

Fax this form: 202-366-7882 or 202-366-3171

Mail this form: see page 2 for instructions

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Date Received

Repository ☐

Reference No.

10314299

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Street No.

Apt. No.

City

State

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

Evening Telephone Number

E-mail

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?

☒ YES ☐ NO

In the absence of authorization, NHTSA will provide a copy of this report to the vehicle manufacturer only during a defect investigation or when you make a complaint about recall performance on your vehicle.

Signature of Owner

Date 10/10/09

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification number located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

Make

Model

Year

Current Mileage

4VZAT1C9X8C

Fleetwood
American

EAGLE

2008

27950

Date Purchased

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

720-406-2111

Engine:

Fuel Type:

20 July 2007

K + C RV Centers

Cummins

☒ Diesel ☐ Hybrid☒ Original Owner

Dealer's City Longmont

State CO

Zip Code 80504

No. Cylinders 6

☐ Gas ☐ Other

Transmission Type

☒ Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

☒ Rear-Wheel Drive☐ Manual☒ Cruise Control☐ All-Wheel Drive☐ Four-Wheel Drive☒ Automatic

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component Name

Incident Date(s)

Failure Mileage

Failure Speed

Failure Location

☐ Driver ☐ Passenger☐ Front ☐ Rear

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make/Brand

Tire Model/Line

Tire Name

Tire Size (Example: P215/65R1105)

Failed Structure

DOT No. (Example: DOT MAL9ABC036 on sidewall)

☐ Original Equipment☐ Prior Repair

Failure Type:

☐ Blowout ☐ Blister ☐ Crack ☐ Torn ☐ Tread Separation ☐ Road Hazard ☐ Out of Round

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make

Date Manufactured

Model Number and Name

Seat Type

☐ Infant ☐ Booster ☐ Integrated ☐ Convertible ☐ Other

Installed in Vehicle using the:

Failed Part. Describe Failure Below

☐ Base ☐ Harness/Buckle ☐ LATCH Connector ☐ Shell ☐ Handle ☐ Other☐ Vehicle safety belt☐ LATCH system*

*Vehicle info required

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).)

Crash

Fire

Number of Persons Injured

Number of Deaths

Police Report No.

☐ Yes ☒ No☐ Yes ☒ No

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

See Attachment

Continue on page 2.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to a49 U.S.C. Chapter 301. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

ATTACHMENT TO NHTSA VEHICLE OWNER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Owner:

Kiowa, CO

We purchased our new Fleetwood American Eagle 42-ft. motorhome on July 20, 2007 with the following specifications:

GVWR	44,600#	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating
GAWR	14,600#	Front axle
	20,000#	Rear axle
	10,000#	Tag axle
CCC	4,102#	Cargo Carrying Capacity

After hearing about potential weight problems with coaches like ours we had our coach weighed while we were at the Fleetwood facility for routine service. **We now know our motorhome front axle GAWR will be grossly exceeded if I load it to the manufactures certified CCC (cargo carrying capacity). This presents a serious safety situation that many owners may not be aware of.**

I request that the NHTSB send out notices to owners of 2007, 2008, and some 2009 42 ft. and 45 ft. Fleetwood American Coach motorhomes built with 14,600 lb. front axles. These notices should state that the affected coaches should be weighed and then carry minimal water, cargo, fuel and 120 psi. in the front tires to avoid front axle and tire overload until this problem can be resolved.

The details for my particular coach are as follows:

On August 2, 2007 the dealer weighed our coach at delivery with fuel tank full (150 gal.), water tank full (120 gal.), propane tank full, black and gray tanks empty, no cargo and no people. The weight was 39,560# (see Exhibit #1)

On May 14, 2009 Fleetwood weighed the coach with fuel tank $\frac{3}{4}$ full (112 gal.), water tank $\frac{1}{2}$ full (60 gal.), propane tank full, black and gray tanks $\frac{1}{2}$ full (60 gal.), normal cargo on board and no people. The weights were as follows (see Exhibit #2):

Front axle	15,090#
Drive axle	17,945#
Tag axle	8,875#
Total weight	41,910#

The following data are also used to calculate the final weights:

Weight of $\frac{1}{4}$ tank of fuel	225#, all on front axle
Weight of 2 people normally on board	310#, all on front axle
Weight of $\frac{1}{2}$ tank of water	480#, $\frac{1}{2}$ on front axle & $\frac{1}{2}$ on rear axles

These data confirm that the gross weight of the loaded coach is well below the GVWR of the coach. 44,600# vs. 42,445# actual weight (41,910# + 310# for 2 people + 225# to fill fuel tank).

These data also show that the cargo weight of 2,575# ($41,910 + 225 - 39,560$) is well below the stated CCC of the coach (4,102#) (see Exhibit #3)

The front axle weight above needs to be adjusted by adding the fuel, water and people weight to reflect the actual configuration the coach is driven in. With these adjustments the total front axle weight is 15,865# ($15,090 + 225 + 240 + 310$).

These data also show that the weight of the front axle exceeds the GAWR by about 1,265# ($15,865 - 14,600$).

Temporary measures can be taken until this problem is resolved. These measures can include a combination of the following to achieve the 1265# reduction.

- Limiting the fuel load to a $\frac{1}{2}$ tank. This will reduce the front axle weight about 450# since the tank is close to the front axle.
- Another 480# can be reduced by carrying no water on the road.
- Removing all cargo will reduce the front axle weight by about 1288# (assumes the cargo is located about half way between the front and rear axles).

The final resolution of this problem should be to retrofit all of the affected coaches with the 16,600# front axles like Fleetwood has done for the 2009 models. Until that can be accomplished the temporary measures should be implemented.

Exhibit 1

VEHICLE WEIGHT SLIP

DATE 8/2/07

☐ SELLER

☐ BUYER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

03:57 PM 08/02/2007

STATE _____ ZIP _____

39560 1b 6

WEIGHED BY _____

DRIVER ON _____ OFF _____

VEHICLE WEIGHT SLIP

DATE _____

☐ SELLER

☐ BUYER

NAME _____

03:57 PM 08/02/2007

ADDRESS _____

39560 1b 6

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

WEIGHED BY _____

DRIVER ON _____ OFF _____

DS = Door Side
RS = Road Side

Exhibit 2

Fleetwood Plant 44

Vehicle ID 00844
Employee # --
Fuel Level 3/4
12:51PM
5-14-09
TICKET NUMBER 2258

RSF 7670
DSF 7345
RSR 9220
DSR 8725
RST 16890
DST 16070
F_AXLE 15015
R_AXLE 17945
DIFFERENCE 820

WT Without
Tag

32960 lb GROSS

Fleetwood Plant 44

Vehicle ID 00844
Employee # --
Fuel Level 3/4
12:52PM
5-14-09
TICKET NUMBER 2259

RSF 7740
DSF 7350
RSR 13590
DSR 13230
RST 21330
DST 20580
F_AXLE 15090
R_AXLE 26820
DIFFERENCE 750

Total WT
all 3 axles

41910 lb GROSS

Exhibit 3

CARGO CARRYING CAPACITY

PRODUCT	AMERICAN EAGLE	YEAR	2008	MODEL	F	FJUN.719FS4400544	
						pounds	(kilograms)
GVWR						44500	20243
minus UYW							
minus fresh water weight of	120	gallons @	8.3 lb/gal			33064	17735
minus propane weight of	31.0	gallons @	4.2 lb/gal			996	452
minus SCWR of	2	persons @	154 lb/person			130	59
						308	140
COC for this motor home *						4102	1852

* Dealer installed equipment and towed vehicle tongue weight will reduce COC
Consumer's should request such information from the dealer.
All Weights and Capacities are approximate.

GVWR		59500	27058
FRONT GAWR		14500	6528
REAR GAWR	(includes capacity of the tag axle if so equipped)	30000	13620
GTW		15000	6810
HITCH RATING	MAX. TONGUE WEIGHT	HITCH RATING	
w/ weight carrying hitch			
w/ weight distributing hitch	750 lbs.	7500 lbs.	
	1500 lbs.	15000 lbs.	

GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating): is the the maximum permissible weight of this fully loaded motor home.
The GVWR is equal to or greater than the sum of the Unloaded Vehicle Weight plus the Cargo Carrying Capacity.

UYW (Unloaded Vehicle Weight): is the weight of this motor home as manufactured at the factory with full fuel,
engine oil, and coolants.

SCWR (Sleeping Capacity Weight Rating): is the manufacture's designated number of sleeping positions multiplied