

July 19, 2013

JUL 31 2013

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have mailed to Fleetwood RV Manufacture informing them of a very serious driving situation while driving there unit in windy conditions.

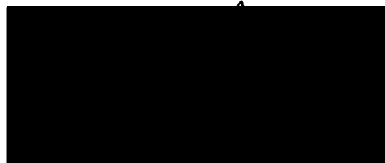
The unit I referenced in the letter is a 2012 model year 31foot class A motorhome affixed to a Ford chassis.

I took delivery of the motorhome new in April 2012. I was unable to have much use of the unit during the year because of various warranty repairs and work requirements.

The encounters with wind conditions occurred this year. On one occasion I encounter winds of a serious nature and was forced to stop driving until the wind subsided. Two other occasions the wind was of a mild nature and the unit was very difficult to control.

As I indicated in my letter I have several years of RV driving experience and therefore believe the type of unstable condition of this particular RV is not normal.

Sincerely yours,



Volcano, CA 



NM
8113
SMD

July 19, 2013

Fleetwood RV Owners Relations
PO Box 1007
Decatur, IN 46733

Reference: 2012 Fleetwood Terra FIN # 4409992

The purpose of the letter is to notify you that I am the owner of the above referenced motorhome and I have a VERY SERIOUS problem while driving in mild wind conditions.

This situation has occurred on three separate occasions. While other RV vehicles were passing me, I have had to reduce my speed to 40 MPR or less and still had difficulty controlling the vehicle in my lane. I'm not concerned that the unit will experience a roll over, but rather that the side to side motion will cause an abrupt lane change thereby causing an accident.

I do not carry an extra large load of supplies including fresh water or waste water, so weight distribution should not be an issue.

I have many years experience of driving a variety of RV's. At one time I was paid to shuffle various motor homes around the State of California and never experienced such uncontrolled management of an RV.

I have talked to only one other owner of a Terra model and his was a 2011 unit. He indicated that he drives from his home in southern California to Palm Desert and does not experience wind difficulties.

I find it difficult to believe that a company of your experience would produce an unstable vehicle. Reviewing the owner's manual provided for the Terra and there is no mention of the instability of this unit.

I have discussed my situation with knowledgeable staff at Camping World and they indicated the need for additional stabilizer and steering stabilizer. Total cost in excess of \$2,500.

I don't know what causes this problem, but I do expect some resolution from Fleetwood.

I look forward to hearing a response to resolve this problem.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Volcano, Ca [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Volcano, CA

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