



INFORMATION REDACTED PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM
OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Ron Kind
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
131 South Barstow Street, Suite 301
Eau Claire, WI 54701

NEF-109 rrr
Ref. No. 10889265

Dear Congressman Kind:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] concerning his model year (MY) 2015 Forest River Dynamax Trilogy recreational vehicle (RV) built on a Lippert Components Inc. (LCI) frame. I am pleased to respond.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect trend may exist.

[REDACTED] indicates that he submitted a complaint via our www.safercar.gov website on July 28, 2016. He asserts that after 9 months his complaint has been ignored by the government. Since then [REDACTED] asserts that he has come across two more Trilogy RV owners that have experienced the same suspension failure, bringing the total to six. He states that the leaf spring hangers on the Correct Track Suspension System bend or separate completely from the frame. [REDACTED] states that there are many trailers and RV's on the road equipped with the same Lippert frame and Correct Track Suspension System. [REDACTED] repaired his RV; however, he wants to know if the problem has been addressed in the Lippert RV frames currently being produced.

NHTSA received [REDACTED] July 28, 2016, report through our www.safercar.gov website (Ref. No. 10889265, enclosed). The information from his report was entered into our complaint database. When a motorist contacts NHTSA to file a complaint, their complaint does not automatically prompt a personal contact or formal investigation by our agency. NHTSA staff may follow up and contact a vehicle owner who submitted a complaint if we require additional information, though contacts initiated by our agency to obtain additional information do not automatically open a formal investigation. Nonetheless, all available data is regularly reviewed to determine if a safety defect trend exists.

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The Honorable Ron Kind

For [REDACTED] information, NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation is monitoring all available data concerning suspension failures in MY 2015 Forest River Dynamax Trilogy RVs built on Lippert frames. However, no determinations have been reached at this time. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. We enclosed a brochure explaining the NHTSA investigation and recall process, which is also on our website at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recalls/recallprocess.cfm.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Jeffrey M. Giuseppe, Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at 202-493-2631.

Sincerely yours,



Essie Wagner
Deputy Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosed

cc: Washington Office



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

Repository

28-JUL-2016

Reference No.
10889265**OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)**

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

City
NEW LISBON,State
WI

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Daytime Telephone Number
[REDACTED]E-mail Address
[REDACTED]

Evening Telephone Number

The information you provide will be used to identify potential safety-related defects. We may share your information with the applicable vehicle manufacturer during an investigation or recall in accordance with the routine uses described in the agency's Privacy Act notice. See 49 FR 53971 (Sep. 3, 2004).

VEHICLE INFORMATION17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side
5ZT3TL3BXFC [REDACTED]Make
FOREST RIVERModel
DYNAMAXModel Year
2015

Date Purchased

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

Engine:
No: Cylinders

Fuel Type:

Original Owner

Dealer's City

State

Zip Code

Transmission Type

 Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

Multiple Failure:

1

Incident Date(s)

24-MAY-2016

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

Vehicle Component Code: 020000 SUSPENSION

Failure Mileage
9300Failure Speed
3**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

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).

WHILE MAKING A SHARP 90 DEGREE PLUS RIGHT TURN ON A CITY STREET MOVING AT LESS THAN 5 MPH THE TORQUE CAUSED BY THE TURN CAUSED THE CURB SIDE REAR SPRING HANGER (LIPPERT COMPONENTS INC, LCI CORRECT TRACK SUSPENSION SYSTEM) TO DETACH FROM THE RV FRAME AND BROKE THE SPRING EYE COMPLETELY OFF. THE STREET SIDE SPRING HANGER BENT AND WAS PARTIALLY REMOVED FROM THE FRAME. WHILE CAREFULLY DRIVING TO A REPAIR FACILITY THE RIGHT SIDE COMPLETELY DETACHED FROM THE FRAME. ONLY THE SPRING SHACKLES ATTACHED TO THE EQUALIZERS KEPT THE REAR AXLE FROM FALLING OFF COMPLETELY. MY OPINION IS THAT THE FRAME MANUFACTURER (LCI) USES A SPRING HANGER THAT IS TOO LIGHT OF A GRADE AND THICKNESS AND THE SPRING BOLT ATTACHES TOO FAR FROM THE FRAME WHICH CAUSES THE SPRING HANGER TO BEND AND OR DETACH WHILE BEING SUBJECTED TO A SOMETIMES NECESSARY HARD TURN AT LOW SPEED.

ON THE FOREST RIVER FORUM (WEB SITE FOR FOREST RIVER OWNERS) I FOUND 3 OTHER TRILOGY 5TH WHEEL RV'S THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED SIMILAR SPRING HANGER PROBLEMS. THE LCI CORRECT TRACK SYSTEM IS BEING INSTALLED ON MANY NEW TRAVEL TRAILERS AND 5TH WHEEL RV'S ON RV FRAMES MANUFACTURED BY LCI.

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.