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Incident Details

Document Number: **119A0188A**

Report Number: 20190927-61522-2147377446

Report Submitted 10/16/2019

Date:

Who You Are: Consumer

Incident
Description:

I've seen a safety issue with a new model RV and I haven't heard any response from the manufacturer after reporting it to them via email to Sabrina Shannon of their Cherokee Owner Relations Office on Sept 7 2019. I also told the Blue Dog RV dealership salesman Derek Brown in Bend OR about this problem and he contacted his factory rep about it. Since then, Forest River has not communicated to me on this issue. I waited to see if they would but it appears increasingly unlikely so I'm submitting this report.

This safety issue concerns overloading (too much weight) of the connect point between the tow vehicle and the RV. The part being overloaded is called an "A frame coupler" which fits over the hitch ball from the tow vehicle.

The particulars are as follows:

Manufacturer: Forest River

Division: Cherokee

Model: Wolf Pup 18TO (western division - made in Oregon only)

Model Year: 2020.

I have the same model RV- 18TO -but it's the midwestern division (made in Indiana) model year 2019. The gross vehicle weight (Called GVWR) of my 18TO is 4999 pounds and the A frame Coupler is rated for 5000 pounds. Its close but not overloaded.

The problem I've noted is that the 2020 model made in Oregon is certified by Forest River at 5600+ pounds gross vehicle weight, but the A frame coupler has the same rating as the RV I have: 5000 pounds. The problem is a 600 pound overload in weight and eventually the part may wear prematurely and/or eventually fail, potentially causing an accident. I've seen a total of two 18TO units at two Blue Dog RV dealerships - one in Bend OR and one in Redmond OR that have this problem, so its not a one unit mistake.

Note the 2019 18TO western division also has a GVWR of 5600+. I have not seen a model to determine if the A frame coupler has the same issue. IF it does it enlarges the range to the problem. I do not know about 2018 or earlier model years

The fix is simple- a different A frame coupler rated at 6000-8000 pounds - gross vehicle weight . Incidentally the 2020 model made in Indiana still has the gross vehicle weight at 4999 pounds so only the Oregon located division made the change.

AS a side note, I got into this by noting the gross weight increase on the forest river web site and trying to find out if I could take advantage of it and I found out all I need to do is put a higher capacity A frame coupler on my RV. I'd have to remove the welded on coupler and weld on a higher capacity unit. I've identified an 8000 pound gross vehicle capacity unit that might work. I will do that when the warranty expires next may. Part cost is around \$30.

Incident Date: 9/5/2019 This is an estimate

Incident Location: Place of Recreation or Sports - [REDACTED], Bend, Oregon, [REDACTED], United States

Product Details

Product
Description:

Recreational travel trailer 2020 year model made in Oregon, not the same model made in Indiana, website is wolf pup, manufactured date in not known by me, not sure what unlicensed means here. The 2019 model year has

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the same GVWR so it may have the same problem.

Product Sports and Recreation

Category:

Product Type: Recreational Vehicles (Unlicensed)

Brand Name: Forest River Cherokee division

Manufacturer / Forest River Cherokee Division

Importer /

Private Labeler

Name:

Model Name or Wolf Pup 18TO made in Oregon

Number:

Serial Number:

Date 9/4/2019

Manufactured:

Manufacturer

Date Code:

Manufacturer 725 Industrial Pkwy, Elkhart, Indiana, 46516, United States

Address:

Manufacturer <https://forestriverinc.com/rvs/travel-trailers/wolf-pup-west?RegionSelected=1>

Website URL:

Manufacturer (574) 389-1801

Phone Number:

Retailer:

Retailer State:

Additional Details

Purchase Date:

I still have the N/A
product in my
possession.

The product was N/A
damaged before
the incident.

The product was N/A
modified before
the incident.

Have you Yes
contacted the
manufacturer?

If not, do you N/A
plan to contact
them?

Explanation: details are in incident report

Your Contact Information

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED], Bend, Oregon, [REDACTED], United States

E-mail [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Consent

May we include Yes, you may include my Report with any attachments on SaferProducts.gov.

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your Report,
including any
documents or
photographs that
you have
attached to your
Report, but
without your
name and
contact
information, in
CPSC's Public
Database?

May we release
your name and
contact
information to
the product
manufacturer /
importer /
private labeler
identified in your
Report?

Yes, you may release my name and contact information to the product manufacturer /importer / private labeler.

I certify that I Yes
have reviewed
the Report and
that the
information
provided in this
Report is true
and accurate to
the best of my
knowledge,
information, and
belief.

OMB Control Number 3041-0146