



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-013
Prompted By: Two VOQS
Date Opened: 02/02/2004 Date Closed: 06/18/2004
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Frame Cracking

Manufacturer: Forest River, Inc.
Products: 1998-1999 Forest River Fifth Wheel Trailers
Population: 1000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Cracks may develop in the fore-aft frame rail at the base of the transverse frame cross members proximate to the spring mounting pillars.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	2	2
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action: Close this Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 06/18/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 06/18/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 06/18/2004

Summary: ODI has not found any additional complaints beyond the original VOQs that formed the basis for the initiation of this investigation. The three VOQ-complaint vehicles did not indicate a trend or pattern in that they differed from each other in model year, (1998, 1999, and 2002), vehicle configuration, and frame supplier.

The 2002 vehicle was a prototype in which the frame-related defect was detected and corrected after the sole affected vehicle was put in service. The frame supplier inspected another of the vehicles and stated that the vehicle exhibited damage to the underbody indicative of having been exposed to one or more high lateral forces consistent with extracting a "wedged" vehicle.

See the attached technical report for full details.

not
fixed on
6/22/04