



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

ODI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: PE 04-025
PROMPTED BY: SERVICE BULLETIN
DATE OPENED: 03/15/2004 DATE CLOSED: 04/27/2004
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: SONNY MURIANKA
SUBJECT: Incorrect Electrical Circuit Breaker

MANUFACTURER: Four Winds International
PRODUCTS: Four Winds International MY 2003 Class 'C' Motorhomes
POPULATION: 408

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: An oversized circuit breaker may have been installed in the vehicle's 110-volt electrical system.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
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: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Four Winds has filed a safety recall (04V-139) to address this issue.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka *SM*
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/27/2004
Date: 04/27/2004
Date: 04/27/2004

SUMMARY: In late February 2004, Four Winds International notified owners of certain motorhomes by letter that there was a need to replace the factory installed circuit breaker due to an overrated circuit breaker being installed at the factory. This issue reportedly affects the 110 volt (house current) system of the coach and would subject the wires to excessive amperage and overheating and possibly cause a thermal event, instead of activating the circuit breaker and interrupting the current flow in the event of a circuit fault being detected in the electrical system.

Four Winds has agreed to initiate a safety recall and replace the breakers on all the affected motor homes with one of proper amperage. The action taken by Four Winds resolves the issues raised by this investigation.

A copy of the recall is attached. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

*Link
fax on
4/28/04*

PE 04-02.55m 04V.139

FAULKNER, GARMHAUSEN, KEISTER & SHENK

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*ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA
**ALSO ADMITTED IN INDIANA

March 23, 2004

**VIA E-MAIL AND
CERTIFIED MAIL,
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Office of Defects Investigation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Four Winds International Corporation Recall
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Gentlemen:

Our office is general counsel for Four Winds International Corporation ("Four Winds"), which is located in Elkhart, Indiana. On behalf of Four Winds, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of a defect in certain Class A motorhomes which has been determined by Four Winds to be safety related.

A. Manufacturer: Identification of Vehicles.

The manufacturer is Four Winds International Corporation, 701 County Road 15, P. O. Box 1486, Elkhart, Indiana 46515-1486. Four Winds has determined that a defect may be present on certain 2003 model year Class A Hurricane, Windsport and Infinity motorhomes manufactured between June, 2002 and March, 2003. The total number of motorhomes that originally contained this defect was 424, which included 16 motorhomes sold in Canada. However, as a result of warranty work performed on this defect to date, 152 of the motorhomes have been repaired, including 4 motorhomes sold in Canada. As a result the total number of motorhomes subject to this recall campaign is 274, which includes 12 motorhomes that were sold in Canada. This total includes all motorhomes located on the premises of Four Winds that were produced before the defect was discovered and all motorhomes retail sold or currently located on dealer lots. The information available to Four Winds indicates that 100% of the subject motorhomes contain the defect.

B. Recall Population.

1. Hurricane Models. The total number of 2003 Hurricane motorhomes subject to this recall campaign is 166, which includes 7 motorhomes that were sold in Canada. The Hurricane motorhomes subject to this recall campaign have serial numbers beginning at HAA011347 and ending at HAA012345.
2. Infinity Models. The total number of 2003 Infinity motorhomes subject to this recall campaign is 42, which does not include any motorhomes sold in Canada. The Infinity motorhomes subject to this recall campaign have serial numbers beginning at IAA011351 and ending at IAA012283.
3. Windsport Models. The total number of 2003 Windsport motorhomes subject to this recall campaign is 66, which includes 5 motorhomes that were sold in Canada. The Windsport motorhomes subject to this recall campaign have serial numbers beginning at WAA011357 and ending at WAA012289.

189
42
61
—
262

C. Description of Defect.

The defect identified by Four Winds results from the improper use of a 20/15 amp breaker on certain Class A motorhomes with the slide out option rather than the proper 15/15 amp breaker. The use of the incorrect breaker size may cause the failure of the breaker to trip when the circuit is overloaded. The failure of the breaker to trip may cause a fire, which could in turn result in injury or death to the occupants of the motorhome.

D. Remedying of Defect.

The program to be implemented by Four Winds to remedy the defect will include notification to all registered owners of the subject motorhomes. The owners will be advised to bring their motorhome to an authorized Four Winds' dealer or service center for repair. The repair of the defect will consist of replacing the 20/15 amp breaker with the correct 15/15 amp breaker. The procedure for the replacement of the breaker has been provided to Four Winds' authorized dealers as set forth in the Technical Service Bulletin referred to below. As set forth in the enclosed owner notification, the defect will be corrected by Four Winds at no expense to the owner.

E. Recall Notifications.

Enclosed as Exhibit "A" is the proposed notification entitled "Vehicle Safety Defect Service Bulletin" that will be sent to registered owners of the subject motorhomes. Enclosed as Exhibit "B" is the proposed notification also entitled "Vehicle Safety Defect Service Bulletin" that will be sent to Four Winds' authorized dealers, along with the

March 23, 2004

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attached Technical Service Bulletin which outlines the procedures to be used by the dealers to correct the defect. Also enclosed as Exhibit "C" is a draft of the language to be included on a postcard to be forwarded with the notification letter to the registered owners. I have also enclosed a copy of the envelope that will contain the notification letter being sent to the registered owners.

The enclosed service bulletins, postcard, and envelope are being submitted to NHTSA for your pre-review. Four Winds intends to mail the owner notification and dealer notification service bulletins and postcards within 30 days after receiving approval of the documents by NHTSA and the release of the NHTSA recall information to Four Winds.

F. Campaign Number.

Four Winds has designated R030008 as its internal campaign number for this recall. However, in the attached service bulletins, Four Winds will reference the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

I would appreciate your providing me with a pre-review determination of the enclosed documents at your earliest convenience. Please contact the undersigned at (937) 492-1271 after you have had an opportunity to review the documents. I trust that you will find the enclosed documents comply with the NHTSA regulations and will approve the documents for form and content.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Daniel A. Benaman

dja

Enclosures

cc: Four Winds International Corporation
Mr. John M. Garmhausen

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Four Winds INTERNATIONAL

Visit our website at www.fourwinds-rv.com

701 C.R. 15, P.O. Box 1488 • Elkhart, IN 46515-1488 • Phone (574) 266-1111 • Fax (574) 293-5268

March 18, 2004

VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECT SERVICE BULLETIN

Recall Campaign No: TBD

Four Winds International Corporation File Number: R030008

15/15 amp Breaker Recall

Re: Safety Recall - 15/15 amp Breaker Recall

Dear Owner:

~~This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.~~

Four Winds International has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2003 Four Winds Class A Hurricane, Infinity and Windsport motorhomes manufactured between June 2002 to March 2003 and contain the slide out option. These motorhomes were manufactured with a 20/15 amp breaker and should have been manufactured with a 15/15 amp breaker. Extended operation with the incorrect breaker size can result in a fire which could cause death or injury to the motorhome occupants. Our records indicate that you own one of the affected motorhomes.

The remedy will consist of exchanging the incorrect breaker size for the correct breaker size and exchanging the breaker label to reflect the correction. This repair will be done at no cost to you.

You may contact your Four Winds International dealer or service center to arrange for a service appointment. If you need assistance in locating a dealer or service center in your area or you are having difficulty setting a service appointment, please contact us at 574-266-1111. Instructions for making this correction have been sent to your dealer and parts are readily available.

While the time for the remedy of the defect is expected to take approximately a half an hour, your dealer or service center may require you to leave the motorhome for a longer period of time to allow for the scheduling of such remedy.

If the non-compliance referred to above has been repaired on your motorhome prior to the receipt of this recall notification, and if you incurred any direct cost in connection with obtaining such repair, you may seek reimbursement from Four Winds International. In order to obtain such reimbursement you must submit the following information: (1) Your name and mailing address; (2) The VIN (vehicle identification number) number for your motorhome; (3) A reference to this recall campaign; and (4) A copy of the receipt or invoice for the repair.

This reimbursement may be obtained by sending your request for reimbursement along with the requested information referred to above to Four Winds International Corporation, P.O. Box 1486, Elkhart, IN 46515-1486.

Four Winds has notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of this recall and the procedures involved. However, should Four Winds fail or be unable to correct the non-compliance without charge, you may write to Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Federal regulation requires any lessor receiving this letter to forward it to the lessee within 10 days.

Sincerely,



Tony Piwozkin
Director of Customer Service
Four Winds International

Enclosure

Four Winds

INTERNATIONAL

Visit our website at www.fourwinds-rv.com

701 C.R. 15, P.O. Box 1486 • Elkhart, IN 46515-1486 • Phone (574) 266-1111 • Fax (574) 293-5256

March 18, 2004

VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECT SERVICE BULLETIN

Recall Campaign No: TBD

Four Winds International Corporation File Number: R030008

15/15 amp Breaker Recall

Re: Safety Recall – 15/15 amp Breaker Recall

Dear Four Winds International Dealer:

Four Winds International has initiated a safety recall campaign relating to 2003 model year Class A motorhomes manufactured from June 2002 to March 2003. A copy of the notification letter that is being sent to owners is enclosed.

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act provides that each vehicle that is subject to a recall campaign of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the owner has tendered it for repair. Generally, failure to repair within sixty (60) days after the owner's first delivery for repair is assumed to be an unreasonable delay.

The Issue

Certain Class A motorhomes with a slide out option were manufactured utilizing a 20/15 amp breaker and should have been manufactured with a 15/15 amp breaker. Failure to exchange the incorrect breaker with the correct breaker can result in a fire which can cause death or injury to the motorhome occupants.

Affected Motorhomes

Affected motorhomes are 2003 Class A Hurricane, Infinity and Windsport motorhomes with the slide out option manufactured from June 2002 to March 2003.

If our records indicate that you have any of the affected motorhomes in your inventory you will also receive an owner notification letter identifying those units.

The Repair

The repair will consist of exchanging the 20/15 amp breaker with the correct 15/15 amp breaker and replacing the breaker label to reflect the correction. Four Winds International is prepared to pay up to .5 hour (s) to complete this repair and parts are readily available. Instructions are enclosed for this repair.

Dealer Campaign Responsibility

All unsold motorhomes in your possession that are subject to this recall campaign must be held and inspected/repared in accordance with the service procedure of this campaign bulletin before owners can take possession of these motorhomes. Please service all motorhomes subject to this recall campaign at no charge to the owners, regardless of mileage, age or vehicle ownership, from this time forward.

In addition to a letter, owners will receive a recall card. The motorhome owner will present this card to you upon arrival for the service appointment. Once the repair has been completed please fill in the appropriate information and return it to Four Winds International along with your claim for payment.

You should contact owners of motorhomes recently sold from your vehicle inventory for which you have received the owner notification letter and make arrangements to perform the required correction according to the instructions enclosed with this bulletin. At a minimum, mail the owner a copy of the owner notification letter accompanying this bulletin.

In summary, whenever a motorhome subject to this campaign enters your vehicle inventory or is in your dealership for service in the future, please take the necessary steps to be sure the campaign correction has been made before selling or releasing the motorhome.

Sincerely,



Tony Piwozkin
Director of Customer Service
Four Winds International

EXHIBIT "C"

FOUR WINDS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

Recall # _____

Please complete the following information and mail this card immediately if your motorhome has been sold. If the unit is still in your possession, please return this card after the repair of the 110 volt circuit breaker has been completed. The serial number is printed on the data tag located on the interior wall of your motorhome next to the driver's seat.

VIN Number _____

_____ The repair of the 110 volt circuit breaker has been completed by:

Service Center: _____

Date: _____

_____ I have sold my motorhome to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____