



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-051
Prompted By: EA04-009 & EA04-019
Date Opened: 07/22/2004 Date Closed: 11/23/2004
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Wheel Separations

Manufacturer: Airstream, Inc., General Coach – Hensall, Keystone RV Company, Komfort Corporation, etal.
Products: TOWABLE VEHICLES
Population: 3500

Problem Description: Wheel nuts can loosen and break in vehicles equipped with aluminum wheels and excess paint/coatings in the wheel hub mounting interface.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	147	147
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: Complaints Category includes warranty information.

Action: Close this PE. Open an Engineering Analysis (EA04-032) with Keystone RV.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 11/24/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 11/24/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 11/24/2004

Summary: Wheel separations at Thor Industries have predominantly occurred in vehicles manufactured by Keystone RV. Keystone RV has reported 110 separations of steel wheels of 64,727 (0.17%) and 15 separations of aluminum wheels of 6,984 (0.21%) in recreational vehicles manufactured since March 2003.

Other divisions of Thor Industries, Dutchman (4), Thor California (0), Thor America (2), Komfort Corp (2), and Airstream (14) have reported fewer wheel separations over a broader time period (since 2000) than Keystone RV.

Since a significant majority (92%) of the wheel separations that have occurred in Thor Industries vehicles have occurred in Keystone RV vehicles, ODI will focus investigation activity on these products and open an Engineering Analysis (EA) at Keystone to investigate the cause(s) for wheel separations.

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