



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-009
Prompted By: RQ03-009
Date Opened: 03/29/2004
Principal Investigator: TOM BOWMAN
Subject: WHEEL SEPARATIONS

Manufacturer: FLEETWOOD ENTERPRISES, INC.
Products: 2002-2004 FLEETWOOD FIFTH WHEEL AND TRAVEL TRAILERS
Population: 4933

Problem Description: WHEEL SEPARATIONS DUE TO LOSS OF WHEEL RETENTION CLAMP

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	64	65
Crashes/Fires:	0	2	2
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: OPEN AN ENGINEERING ANALYSIS

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 03/29/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 03/29/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 03/29/2004

Summary: ODI has modified the focus of this investigation. Fleetwood's campaign directive requested that affected owners re-torque the wheel mounting nuts. Although retorquing is consistent with good maintenance practice, ODI is concerned that the need to frequently retorque the wheel mounting nuts may be indicative of underlying design, assembly, or application issues that could be affecting the retention integrity of the wheel mounting system.

Fleetwood selects, purchases, and installs the wheel end components for their vehicles and is responsible for assuring the compatibility and the correct assembly of these components into the vehicle. Fleetwood's response to ODI's inquiries provided limited information that did not adequately explain the reason(s) for the wheel separations. ODI is not convinced that the corrective actions will completely address the issue.

Although Fleetwood has advised ODI that no additional wheel separations have occurred since their October 29, 2003 defect report and associated owner notification, ODI will open an engineering analysis to further investigate the issues that may be contributing to wheel separations in Fleetwood vehicles.

Sent to
Fleetwood
3/31/04
T. Bowman