



U.S. Department of Transportation

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-019  
Prompted By: PE04-016  
Date Opened: 07/02/2004  
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman  
Subject: Wheel Separation

Manufacturer: JAYCO, INC.  
Products: Jayco 2001-04 Legacy 5th wheel & 2002-03 Designer trailer  
Population: 3,433

Problem Description: Wheels can separate from vehicles when the clamp provided by the wheel mounting and retention system (nuts, studs, and wheel components) loosens, causing nut back-off and/or stud breakage.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	60	60
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: Open an engineering analysis

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 07/02/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd MB

Date: 07/02/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/02/2004

Summary: In response to ODI's June 1, 2004 PE inquiry, Jayco advised ODI of 58 wheel separation incidents that have occurred in Jayco products. Three (3) are model year 2002-2003 Travel Trailers and fifty-five (55) are model year 2001-2004 fifth wheel towable RV's equipped with aluminum wheels. Jayco has also advised ODI that an additional two (2) wheel separations occurred during June, 2004.

ODI conducted a field inspection of a Jayco vehicle that "lost" a wheel on June 11, 2004. The inspection found evidence of coating material between the hub and wheel mounting faces. Foreign material such as coatings in the wheel mounting joint can compromise the ability of the nuts to maintain clamp and lead to nut loosening and/or stud breakage and could result in a wheel separation. A wheel that separates from a vehicle at highway speeds poses a hazard to other users of the roadway and can affect the stability and safety of the affected RV.

MB  
faxed  
on  
7/2/04