



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

# Memorandum

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

---

Subject: Submittal to the Public File  
ODI Investigation EA05-011

Date: December 23, 2005

From: TOM BOWMAN  
Office of Defects Investigation/NSA-10

Reply to: EA05-011

To: PUBLIC FILE

Subject: Country Coach Vehicle Inspections conducted at Palm Desert, CA between Saturday, November 26 through and Friday, Dec 2, 2005

Methodology:

ODI made arrangements through Country Coach to attend a rally being held by the Country Coach Southwestern vehicle owners at Palm Desert, CA.

Scope:

Inspections consisted of (1) weighing the vehicles on arrival; (2) measuring the actual tire pressure after waiting at least 24 hours for the tire temperature to cool to ambient temperature, and (3) interviewing the individual owners to discuss their experiences with tire performance and tire maintenance practices, including the targeted inflation pressures and the frequency and methods that owners use to measure their tire pressures, and sources of information that owners have relied on to determine appropriate tire inflation pressures.

Equipment:

(1) Tire Pressure Gages

Front Tires and Rear Inner Tires – Measured with a digital read-out Model 63-1114 tire gage with advertised accuracy of “+ or - 1 % + 0.5 p.s.i.) within a range of 5 –150 p.s.i. and within an operating temperature of 14 to 122 degrees Fahrenheit.

Outer Rear Tires – (The in-line tire pressure gage used to measure the front tire pressures could not be fitted to the outer rear tires due to limited access to the tire valve stem. ODI used a separate tire gage with a 180-degree fitting to measure the outer rear tire pressures.) Country Coach provided a 180-degree fitting gage identified as GA185S, manufactured by Haltec Corporation, Salem, Ohio.

(2) Portable Scales

ODI recorded individual wheel loads using California Highway Patrol PAT portable scales with digital read-out identified as (A) s/n 881186, (B) s/n 85084C, (C) s/n 881165, (D) s/n 85462C, (E) s/n 85365C, and (F) s/n D85175C. Each scale was rated at 20,000 lbs capacity and had been certified on November 21, 2005 by the County of San Diego Dept of Agriculture, Weights, and Measures. Certification indicated the test load and measured load ranged differed with a range of 50 - 200 lbs which is within the allowable range of + or – 500 lbs.

GTBowman  
ODI-NHTSA  
12-23-05

