



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-040
Date Opened: 09/12/2006
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Wheel Separation / Axle Fracture

Manufacturer: Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc.
Products: Dutchmen mfr - Colorado RV MY 2007
Population: 96 (ESTIMATED)

Problem Description: Axle may fracture at Spindle attachment Weld

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	3	3
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 a Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: On September 1, 2006, in response to ODI's request, Lippert Components, Inc. (axle mfr) identified 15 incidents in which an axle had allegedly completely or partially fractured at or near the spindle weld. In certain incidents, the affected wheel had separated from the vehicle.

Three of the incidents that Lippert Components, Inc. identified reportedly had occurred in Colorado model vehicles manufactured by Dutchmen.

A wheel separation poses a risk since the separated wheel may strike pedestrians and/or vehicles being operated in proximity to the wheel separation.

SV
9/13/06