



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-061
Date Opened: 11/30/2007 Date Closed: 03/24/2008
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Lift Assisted Cargo Doors

Manufacturer: Newmar Corporation
Products: 2005 Model Year Newmar Motor Homes
Population: 2,431

Problem Description: Lift assisted cargo doors may open and extend outward from the vehicle while traveling.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	2	2
Crashes/Fires:	1	1	1
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: "Crashes" means an opened cargo door in a moving vehicle that has contacted a stationary object

Action: Close this PE. Implement a one-year monitoring program at Newmar.

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

Date: 03/24/2008
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Summary: ODI opened this investigation with a single complaint, VOQ 10192456. During the investigation, Newmar identified one additional owner complaint on a subject vehicle (population 2,431).

Newmar also identified one complaint pertaining to a Model Year 2006 vehicle (of 1,567 MFD) in which a lift assisted cargo door in a moving vehicle had reportedly opened (or been left in the open position by the operator) to the near horizontal position and the protruding right rear cargo door had contacted a highway guardrail which sheared the cargo door from the vehicle.

Continue on page 2

Newmar has advised ODI that inadvertent opening of horizontally hinged cargo doors will become less frequent because Newmar vehicles manufactured in more recent years are equipped with vertically hinged cargo doors (which are not equipped with a lift assist feature).

ODI is closing this investigation due to a low number of failures, but has implemented a one-year monitoring program at Newmar that requires Newmar to inform ODI when any additional incidents of inadvertent cargo door openings are reported so the agency can respond with the appropriate action if, and when , new incidents are reported.