



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

ODI RESUME

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

Manufacturer: Newmar Corporation
Products: 2005 Model Year Newmar Motor Homes
Population: 100 (Estimated)

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	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:

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

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

Date: 11/30/2007
Date: 11/30/2007
Date: 11/30/2007

Summary: Certain lift assisted cargo doors may open and extend outward from the vehicle to the near horizontal (gull-wing) position when unlatched and may be retained in this extended position until closed and latched.

ODI is concerned that vehicles equipped with lift-assist cargo door systems that, when unlatched, raise and extend outward from the vehicle to a near-horizontal (gull-wing) position while the vehicle is traveling, may pose a risk to pedestrians and/or vehicles being operated proximate to the raised/extended cargo door.

If motor home cargo were to fall through an open cargo door while the vehicle was being operated, the resulting road debris could pose a hazard to trailing vehicles that may strike the debris and/or pose a risk that a trailing vehicle may crash as a result of taking aggressive driving maneuvers in an effort to avoid striking the unexpected detritus.