U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 10-011
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 12/29/2010
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Siemens Circuit Breakers Failing

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: SIEMENS CORPORATION
Products: Circuit breakers manufactured between 6/1/2010 and 7/31/2010
Population: 20,000

Problem Description: Certain plug-in circuit breakers can fail as the result of a defective internal spring clip. This failure can cause excessive temperatures that can lead to a fire.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:**

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open EQ

Summary:

On November 11, 2010, Siemens Corporation (Siemens) notified the NHTSA that it had decided certain plug-in circuit breakers, manufactured between June 1, 2010, and July 31, 2010, contain a safety related defect. Siemens stated that certain circuit breakers contain a spring clip that may break or fail due to improper heat treatment during manufacturing. Should a circuit breaker spring clip break or fail, excessive temperature, arcing or thermal damage leading to a fire is possible. Should a fire occur from a circuit breaker installed into a recreational vehicle, both personal injury and property damage are possible. Siemens noted that these circuit breakers were sold under both the Siemens and Murray brand names and installed into load centers and meter combo enclosures manufactured between June 23, 2010, and August 25, 2010. This issue was assigned recall number 10E-053.

Coachmen RV originally reported this issue in a Part 573 Report for their vehicles on September 15, 2010. The Recall Management Division (RMD) tried contacting Siemens at that time to inquire further about the use of this equipment in other motor vehicles. Former recall contacts at Siemens did not return calls or e-mails to RMD staff. RMD attempted to contact Siemens' counsel several times in December, but received no reply. To date, only Coachmen RV, Dutchmen Manufacturing and Keystone RV have filed subsequent Part 573 Reports for vehicles they manufactured with these circuit breakers.

The purpose of this EQ is to write to any other companies that might have purchased this equipment, notify them of this defect in any vehicles they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.