U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-008
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 07/14/2014
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Frame Spring Hanger Failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Lippert Components, Inc.
Products: Recreational Trailers
Population: 50 (Estimated)

Problem Description: There may be a material quality defect in the frame spring hangers manufactured by Lippert Components, Inc. (Lippert). The frame spring hangers may fracture under stress.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is opened.

Summary:

In a letter dated March 26, 2014, Keystone RV Company (Keystone) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain model year (MY) 2014 Summerland, Springdale, Bullet, and Cougar recreational travel trailers and fifth wheels built with a 4¼ spring hanger, with a build date of February 13, 2014 to February 24, 2014. The affected vehicles may have been built with Lippert frame spring hangers that may be brittle and susceptible to fracturing. A fractured spring hanger may result in a loss of control of the trailer, increasing the risk of a crash. This matter was assigned recall number 14V-146.

In a letter dated March 31, 2014, Crossroads RV (Crossroads) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain MY 2015 Sunset Trail, Zinger, and Reserve recreational travel trailers manufactured February 20, 2014, through February 28, 2014. The affected trailers may have been built with Lippert frame spring hangers that may be brittle and susceptible to fracturing. A fractured spring hanger may result in a loss of control of the trailer, increasing the risk of a crash. This matter was assigned recall number 14V-156.

Lippert supplied NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying the vehicle manufacturers that may have incorporated the subject frame spring hangers into their vehicles. However, a Part 573 Report has not been filed by Lippert or all of these potentially affected manufacturers at this time.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to Lippert and the companies that purchased Lippert's frame spring hangers, notify them of the reported material quality defect and ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.