



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 15-007
Date Opened: 02/27/2015
Investigator: Nate Seymour
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: LCI RV Entry Step Failures
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Lippert Components, Inc.
Products: 2008-2014 LCI RV Three Step Electric Powered Entry Steps
Population: 3,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The vehicle entry steps may unexpectedly fail in a manner the causes loss of balance and increases the risk of personal injury.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	TBD	4
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	0
Injury Incidents:	1	TBD	1
Number of Injuries:	1	TBD	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Other*:	1	TBD	1

***Description of Other:** Lawsuit filed against LCI and Forest River.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Summary:

The Office of Defect Investigation (ODI) has identified four Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQ) alleging failure of the Lippert (LCI) recreational vehicle (RV) steps. The subject component is an electrically powered set of steps that extend to provide access to and from the vehicle. In addition to the VOQs, ODI is aware of one lawsuit in which injuries were alleged due to a failure of the steps.

The steps consist of three platforms linked together. A gear drives the extension and retraction of the steps. A single bolt anchors the gear and acts as it's axis. Reports indicate that this bolt has failed allowing free movement of the steps.

NHTSA has received six recalls from other vehicle manufacturers related to entry step failures. ODI has opened this investigation to assess the scope, frequency and consequences of the alleged defect.

The ODI reports cited can be reviewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID> under the following complaint identification numbers: 10684011, 10684277, 10537821, and 10605447.

The NHTSA recalls cited can be reviewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/SearchNHTSAID> under the following recall identification numbers 08V084, 08V164, 12V535, 14V321 and 15V102.