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 Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On January 15, 2004, Western Recreational Vehicles, Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety) (a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. _____) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: January 15, 2004

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): PE03-056

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Western Recreational Vehicles, Inc.

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Michael Glazier

Vice President, Customer Service

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

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Telephone Number: 509-457-4133 Fax No.: 509-457-8184

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Phil Mattoon

Customer Service Manager

Signed:

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Alpine Coach **Model Years Involved:** 1998-2003 **Model(s):** Coach
models produced during the VIN range including:

1998 - 36 FD, 36 FDS & 36 SDS

1999 - 36 FD, 36 FDS, 36 SDS & 40 FDS

2000 - 36 SDS, 36 FDS, 38 FDS, 38 FDDS & 40 FDS

2001 - 34 FDDS, 36 FDS, 36 MDS, 36 MDDS, 36 FDDS, 38 FDDS & 40 FDS

2002 - 34 FDDS, 36 MDDS, 36 FDDS, 38 FDDS & 40 FDTS

2003 - 34 FDDS, 36 MDDS, 36 FDDS, 38 FDDS, 38 FDTS, 40 FDTS & 40 MDTS

Production Dates: Beginning: 8-19-97 **Ending:** 1-22-03

VIN Range: Beginning: 18XF4CG22W1171957 **Ending:** 18XF48K2931174869

Vehicle Type: Diesel "A" **Bodystyle:** Side Doors & Middle Doors

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Ground fuse eliminated on VIN 74870 and later vehicles.

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period. 100%

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
36 FD, 36 FDS & 36 SDS	1998	104
36 FD, 36 FDS, 36 SDS & 40 FDS	1999	188
36 SDS, 36 FDS, 38 FDS, 38 FDDS & 40 FDS	2000	180
34 FDDS, 36 FDS, 36 MDS, 36 MDSD, 36 FDDS, 38 FDDS & 40 FDS	2001	194
34 FDDS, 36 MDSD, 36 FDDS, 38 FDDS & 40 FDTS	2002	145
34 FDDS, 36 MDSD, 36 FDDS, 38 FDDS, 38 FDTS, 40 FDTS & 40 MDTS	2003	152

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 963

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

Ground fuse was used in all vehicles produced through VIN 18XF48K2931174869.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

A 250-amp ground/fuse was used to protect battery ground. The fuse protecting the positive side of the battery was rated for 300 amps.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

This is a design issue.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Possible vehicle electrical system shut down could occur at a 250-amp load on electrical system.

A 250-amp load would be considered an over current load on system and would not occur under normal operating conditions.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

A sudden loss of electrical power on all systems.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Not applicable.

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Not applicable.

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

In September of 2003, WRV was notified by one coach owner of a possible fuse overload.

Further review by Engineering in October, 2003, and further contact with the customer resulted in determination that non-conformity may exist. Notification bulletin was mailed in November of 2003.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

250-amp ground fuse to be replaced with 350-amp connector.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The rated load capacity for the ground system is increased from 250-amps to 350-amps.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

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A design change in the electrical harness occurred on vehicle 74870, eliminating the 250-amp ground fuse.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

On about November 24, 2003, WRV sent a service bulletin to each owner (retail or dealership) of a subject vehicle including a replacement connector and installation instructions. No foreseeable problems are expected and no further action is anticipated.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A *DRAFT* copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.

A copy of the notification packet has been provided.

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

WRV will furnish any applicable documents in the future.