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04V-160 ① or ③

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

2004 APR 12 P 2:04

April 5, 2004

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Analysis Division
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Part # 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC.

Dear Mr. Person;

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC has determined that a potential safety defect may exist on certain 2004 MY Coachmen Mirada 290 Class A motorhomes. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility from June 14, 2003 through March 31, 2004.

We believe that 120 units in total are potentially affected by this defect.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

On affected vehicles, the chassis leaf spring rear shackle and/or shackle bolt may come in direct contact with the LP tank when the vehicle is in motion. The potential for contact will depend on vehicle load and/or rough road surface conditions. If significant contact were to occur over a period of time, the LP tank could become damaged and potentially leak LP gas, which could result in a fire.

DISCOVERY OF THE DEFECT

The defect was discovered during an in-process inspection as a unit was being built.

PRECLUSION OF POTENTIAL DEFECT

The mounting location of the tank has been moved outboard from the chassis rails and away from the chassis leaf spring rear shackle. The revised tank location provides approximately 3" of clearance between the tank and the shackle and bolt thereby eliminating any potential for contact. This change can be made to existing built units.

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC. will supply the necessary instructions for making the repairs to remedy this defect. The repairs will be done by Coachmen dealers at no expense to the dealers or the retail customers.

All purchasers and dealerships that receive these units with the potential defect will be advised by mail regarding this problem. A copy of the draft of our proposed owner notification letter is attached for your review and approval. We can start the mailing campaign and begin providing the recall remedy within 5 days of your approval of this letter.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please advise.

Very Truly Yours,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC.



Gary L. Duncan

Attachments:

Cc: Rick Lavers – Coachmen Industries
Michael Terlep, Jr. – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company LLC.

April 6, 2004

Dear Coachmen Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Coachmen RV Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2004 Mirada 290 motorhomes built from June 14, 2003 through March 31, 2004.

SAFETY DEFECT

On affected vehicles, the chassis leaf spring rear shackle and/or shackle bolt may come in direct contact with the LP tank when the vehicle is in motion. The potential for contact will depend on vehicle load and/or rough road surface conditions. If significant contact were to occur over a period of time, the LP tank could become damaged and potentially leak LP gas, which could result in a fire. **DO NOT OPERATE AFFECTED VEHICLES OVER EXTENDED DISTANCES UNTIL YOUR VEHICLE HAS BEEN INSPECTED, AND IF NECESSARY, REPAIRED.**

REPAIRS

PLEASE TAKE YOUR UNIT PROMPTLY TO YOUR COACHMEN DEALER. At no charge to you, the Coachmen dealer will inspect your vehicle, and if required perform the needed repairs. The necessary repairs should not take more than one (1) hour.

REFUNDS

If you have paid to have this service performed prior to receiving this notice you can receive a full refund. Please mail your paid original invoice or receipt to Coachmen RV Service, P.O. Box 1000, Middlebury, Indiana 46540.

CHANGED ADDRESS OR SOLD THE VEHICLE?

Please fill out the enclosed pre-paid postcard and mail it to us if you have changed your address or sold the vehicle.

Any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If your dealer does not make the required repair promptly and without charge, you may contact Coachmen Customer Service at 1-800-453-6064. You also may contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

We regret the inconvenience this situation may have caused you. However, Coachmen RV Company believes in the early detection and immediate correction of potential concerns. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC