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2004 MAY 11 P 2 45

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Mr. George Person  
Chief, Recall Management Office  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

04V-237  
(4 pages)

11 May 2004

Dear Mr. Person:

Country Coach, Inc. has decided that a potential safety defect exists with the alignment of the slide cargo tray release lever in the storage bay compartment and the striker plate of the storage bay compartment door latch. The safety defect condition is found in certain Allure motor homes. The striker plate of the storage bay compartment door latch is positioned in the same plane as the release mechanism located on the face of the slide cargo tray frame. At this location the potential exists to catch a finger of the hand operating the release of the slide cargo tray when pulling the tray out of the compartment. Two hundred ninety-six Model Years 2002-2003 Allure motor homes were manufactured with this latch configuration. This safety defect is related to Motor Vehicle Safety

Two customers have lost portions of their right index fingers when their fingers were caught between the slide tray and the striker plate for the compartment door latch. There is also anecdotal evidence of 3 near misses experienced by 2 Country Coach employees and 1 Beaudry RV employee.

Country Coach has not determined what repair will mitigate the potential for injury at this time. An amendment to the attached 573 will be forthcoming when the repair has been determined. The repair and any associated parts will be performed and provided at no cost to the owner.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 541-998-3720 x382.

Sincerely,

Dick Sabath  
Quality Assurance and Compliance Administration  
Country Coach, Inc.

Enclosures (1)

THE WORLD'S FINEST MOTORCOACHES

135 East First Avenue | PO Box 400 | Junction City, OR 97448

**Safety Defect Information Report  
Pursuant to 49 CFR part 573**

Country Coach, Inc. has decided that certain motor homes it manufactured have a vehicle safety defect. Country Coach is hereby providing notification to your office in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573.

The information required by your regulations follows.

1. **573.5 (c)(1) Manufacturer's name and address.**

Country Coach, Inc.  
135 East First Ave.  
P.O. Box 400  
Junction City, OR 97448

2. **573.5 (c)(2) Equipment involved in this notification:**

**Model Year 2002 Allure Motor Home Manufactured from March 2001 through February 2002**

**VIN Range: 4U7A6DK1221102224 – 4U7A6EK1X21102722**

**Vehicle Type: MPV**

**Bodystyle: Motor Home**

**Model Year 2003 Allure Motor Home Manufactured from February 20002 through May 2003**

**VIN Range: 4U7A6DV1231102723 – 4U7A8EV1731103463**

**Vehicle Type: MPV**

**Bodystyle: Motor Home**

3. **573.5 (c)(3) Total number of items of equipment:**

A total of 137 Model Year 2002 Allure motor homes are involved. All 137 motor homes are consumer owned.

A total of 159 Model Year 2003 Allure motor homes are involved. All 159 motor homes are consumer owned.

A total of two hundred ninety-six (296) motor homes are involved.

4. **573.5 (c)(4) Approximate percentage of equipment estimated to actually contain the noncompliance:**

100% of the motor homes identified in item 2, above, have the safety defect.

**5. 573.5 (c)(5) Description of the safety defect:**

**Brief summary of safety defect:**

The striker plate of the storage bay compartment door latch of certain Allure motor homes is positioned in proximity to the release mechanism located on the face of the sliding cargo tray frame. At this location the potential exists to catch a finger of the hand operating the release of the slide cargo tray.

**Detailed description of noncompliance:**

The striker plate of the storage bay compartment door latch of certain Allure motor homes is positioned in the same plane as the release mechanism located on the face of the slide cargo tray frame. At this location the potential exists to catch a finger of the hand operating the release of the slide cargo tray.

When pulling the slide cargo tray out of the bay compartment, the fingers of the hand used to release the locking mechanism may be positioned between the slide tray frame and the striker plate. As the tray slides out of the compartment the potential exists for a finger to be caught between the slide tray frame and the striker plate. The striker plates' construction traps the finger and may cause severe injury to the finger including the loss of a portion of the finger.

Two customers have lost portions of their right index fingers when their fingers were caught between the slide tray frame and the striker plate for the compartment door latch. There is also anecdotal evidence of 3 near misses experienced by 2 Country Coach, Inc. employees and 1 Beaudry RV employee.

**6. Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:**

On May 03, 2004 Country Coach Inc received notice of an injury involving the slide-out cargo tray installed on an Allure Motor Home. An investigation was immediately undertaken that included the physical examination of the slide-out cargo tray and the cargo bay door latch striker plate.

At the conclusion of the investigation, it was determined on May 11, 2004 that a safety defect existed.

**7. 573.5 (c)(8) Description of proposed remedy:**

Country Coach has not determined what repair will mitigate the potential for injury at this time. The repair and any associated parts will be performed and provided at no cost to the owner.

**8. Program for Remedy Campaign:**

Country Coach will notify all owners of the affected motor homes and will offer to remedy the motor homes free of charge. Safety recall notices will be mailed to the owners of the affected motor homes and a Dealer Vehicle Safety Defect Service Bulletin will be mailed to all dealers on or before May 24, 2004. All mailings will be by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and First Class Mail.