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***ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA**

****ALSO ADMITTED IN INDIANA**

May 20, 2004

**VIA FACSIMILE AND
CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

*04V-243
(30 pages)*

**Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590**

**Re: Thor California, Inc. Recall
Defect and Non-Compliance Report**

Gentlemen:

Our office is general counsel for Thor California, Inc. ("Thor California"), which is located in Moreno Valley, California. On behalf of Thor California, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of a defect in certain travel trailers which has been determined by Thor California to be safety related.

A. Manufacturer Identification of Vehicles.

The manufacturer is Thor California, Inc., 14255 Elsworth Street, Moreno Valley, California 92553-9013. Thor California has determined that a defect may be present on certain 33 foot 2004 model year Tahoe Fury, Wanderer Vortex, and Jazz Frenzy toy box travel trailers. These Tahoe Fury, Wanderer Vortex, and Jazz Frenzy toy box travel trailers were manufactured between May 30, 2003 and December 22, 2003. The total number of toy box travel trailers that may contain the defect is 83. The information available to Thor California is that 100% of the subject trailers contain the defect.

The last five digits of the starting VIN for the travel trailers subject to this recall campaign are 46074, and the last five digits of the ending VIN are 50334.

B. Description of Defect.

The defect identified by Thor California involves the weight distribution of the subject travel trailers. Thor California has determined that the improper weight distribution may occur when the back of the travel trailer is loaded with cargo. For NHTSA's information, the toy box travel trailers manufactured by Thor California were designed for use by individuals who use their travel trailers to haul all terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles and the like. As a result, the cargo that may be loaded on these toy box travel trailers can amount to several thousand pounds.

Under certain load conditions, the improper weight distribution of the travel trailer may cause handling problems with the travel trailer, including but not limited to potential swaying of the trailer while being towed on the road, which could ultimately result in an accident involving the travel trailer and the tow vehicle. This defect may occur without any advanced warning to the owner or operator of the vehicle towing the travel trailer.

C. Remedying of Defect.

The recall campaign to be implemented by Thor California to remedy the defect will improve the handling of the subject travel trailers. The recall campaign will include notification to all known registered owners of the subject travel trailers, including but not limited to all dealers with such trailers in stock. Owners will be instructed to take their travel trailer to the nearest authorized Thor California dealer or service center for repair. Thor California's authorized dealers and service centers will be provided written instructions identifying the defect and the repair procedures that will need to be undertaken. As will be set forth in the notification letter to be mailed to the registered owners, the defect will be corrected by Thor California at no expense to the owner.

At the current time, the procedures for repairing the defect are still being developed. One possible repair being investigated involves increasing the weight located at the front of the travel trailer by 700 pounds by replacing the existing A-frame with a heavier A-frame containing 7 guage 1/4" steel tube. The addition of the weight at the front of the travel trailer will increase the stability of the trailer when heavier loads are placed in the rear of the trailer. This additional weight at the front of the trailer will have no adverse effect on the handling of the trailer when there are not heavy loads placed in the rear of the trailer.

After the heavier A-frame is placed on the travel trailer, the unloaded vehicle weight of the travel trailer will increase by 700 pounds, the hitch weight of the travel trailer will increase by 700 pounds, and the net carrying capacity of the travel trailer will be reduced by 1,300 pounds. The vehicle weight ratings of the travel trailers subject to this recall campaign must change accordingly.

In addition, the possible repair being investigated involves replacing the existing coupler on the travel trailer which is rated at 10,000 pounds with a new coupler rated at 15,000 pounds. The higher weight-rated coupler is necessary to support the revised vehicle weight ratings of the subject travel trailers.

Thor California is currently working with its A-frame supplier and coupler supplier to determine the proper replacement A-frame and the proper replacement coupler to be used to remedy the defect. Thor California expects to finalize the repair procedures in the near future. After the repair procedures have been finalized, Thor California will notify NHTSA regarding the actual repair procedures chosen to remedy the defect. In addition, Thor California will provide NHTSA with copies of the repair procedures that will be provided to its authorized dealers and service centers when such repair procedures have been finalized and are available.

D. Owner Notification.

The owner notification letter, postcard, and envelope will be submitted to NHTSA for review after Thor California has finalized the repair procedures for the above-referenced defect. Thor California will then mail the owner notification letters and postcards within thirty (30) days after approval of the recall procedures by NHTSA.

E. Campaign Number.

At this time, Thor California does not have a campaign number for this recall. Thor California will use the identification number assigned by NHTSA.

Please contact the undersigned at (937) 492-1271 if you have any questions after you have had an opportunity to review the enclosed information. Otherwise, our office will provide NHTSA with the updated documentation necessary to implement the recall campaign after the repair procedures have been finalized.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Daniel A. Bongman

dja
cc: Thor California, Inc.