

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On August 6, 2004, Newmar Corporation determined a defect which relates to motor safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

This report was prepared on August 11, 2004.

04V-40
(4 pages)

The manufacturer's identification number for this recall is _____

1. The "Final Stage" vehicle manufacturer is

Newmar Corporation
355 N Delaware St.
Nappanee, IN 46550

Company contact:

Betty Lehr
Warranty Recovery Manager
Consumer Affairs Dept.
(574) 773-7791
(574) 773-2007 fax

This report prepared by:

Jeff Christner
Compliance Engineer
(574) 773-7791
(574) 773-5153 fax

Signed Jeff Christner

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall

The certain vehicles involved in the recall are model years 2004-2005 Kountry Star Diesel Pusher Motorhomes, 2004-2005 Northern Star Diesel Pusher Motorhomes, and 2003-2005 Dutch Star Diesel Pusher Motorhomes.

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or non-compliance.

Model	2003	2004	2005	Total
Kountry Star Pusher	0	26	15	41
Northern Star Pusher	0	82	10	92
Dutch Star Pusher	57	96	29	182
Grand Total	57	204	54	315

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

100 % of the vehicles listed above may contain the defect.

5. Describe the defect or non-compliance. This description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or non-compliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The seat belt shoulder harness attachment location for the passenger seat only has been determined to fail during testing. See picture # 1 provided.

6. Describe the nature of the defect or noncompliance condition.

During manufacturing, the support bracket was not properly welded or attached.

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

In the event of a crash, the shoulder harness may become loose or unattached causing serious injury to anyone in the passenger seat.

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

None.

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

None.

6. If defect, furnish a chronological summary with dates of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. Include number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

While testing new style seating and/or locations, it was determined while testing of a failure on a similar floor plan model. The testing was completed on June 9, 2004. Following an Engineering assessment, a similar floor plan model built earlier in the model year was scheduled for testing to determine if the same results would be found. After testing the similar model on August 6, 2004, it was determined the same failure at the harness attachment location did exist in both models.

7. If noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data in chronological order with dates on which the noncompliance was determined.

n/a

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.

Remove wallboard at defective belt backer plate. Install a new plate over existing by drilling four attachment holes on each side of new plate and add securing bolts. Due to weak welds at the attachment points, this plate will provide the needed securement enabling compliance.

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

The only distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component will be the added holes for bolting the new plate in place. The wall board will need to be removed to physically detect this difference.

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.

On June 11, 2004, an Engineering Change Order was drafted specifically instructing manufacturing on a new process to better install the backer with specific detail for all welds in order to become compliant with testing completed and documented for this application. The production remedy is similar to the remedy but involves welding rather than bolting. Engineering developed a remedy that will not require any welding in the field during repair procedures.

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

Estimated notification schedule: 9/3/04-Notification letter to owners/dealers.

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 concerning this recall.

Newmar will provide to NHTSA a copy of the Owner/ Dealer Notifications before sending out for approval.

The manufacturer's campaign identification number if not identical to the number assigned by NHTSA.

Newmar's identification number will be assigned by NHTSA.

All Documents To Be Faxed To (202) 366-7882, Then Mailed.