



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

04V-464  
(4 pages)

21 September 2004

Subject: 573 Submittal

Dear Mr. Person:

Country Coach, Inc. has decided that a potential safety defect exists with the 12 volt Type I circuit breaker in the clearance light circuit of a motorhome which did not protect the circuit from a too high amperage draw caused by a towed passenger vehicle. Certain passenger vehicle lighting systems when wired into the clearance light circuit of the motorhome will draw too much amperage causing the Type I 12 V circuit breaker to continuously reset until the circuit becomes so hot that the insulation on the wire begins to burn. The motorhome's vehicle related lighting systems are powered through a Smart Wheel control module. This safety defect is related to Motor Vehicle Safety.

A customer notified Country Coach on August 30, 2004, that a fire had occurred in the dash area of their motorhome due to the overheating of a circuit. The customer brought the motorhome to the Country Coach factory Service Center for an inspection. After inspecting the Smart Wheel module and performing some tests on the circuit it was determined that a potential safety defect existed.

Country Coach has determined that the repair for this defect will be that all 12 V Type I circuit breakers, other than the circuit breaker on the ignition circuit, be replaced with 12 V Type II circuit breakers. The 12 V Type II circuit breaker remains open once tripped until power is removed and reapplied, or the over-current cause is removed. This repair and 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 541-898-3720 x138.

Sincerely,

Gary Dwyer, Director of QA and Compliance Administration

THE WORLD'S FINEST MOTORCOACHES  
135 East First Avenue | PO Box 400 | Junction City, OR 97448-0400

RECEIVED  
SEP 21 AM 11:19  
NHTSA

**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:** 2004 Inspire Motorhomes manufactured from May 2003 to March 2004

**VIN Range:** 4U7K6EK1541103318 – 4U7K6EK1241103919

**Vehicle Type:** MPV

**Bodystyle:** Motor Home

**Model Year:** 2005 Inspire Motorhomes manufactured from March 2004 to August 2004

**VIN Range:** 4U7K6ES1751103920 – 4U7K6ES1751104324

**Vehicle Type:** MPV

**Bodystyle:** Motor Home

**Model Year:** 2005 Allure Motorhomes manufactured from June 2004 to September 2004

**VIN Range:** 4U7A8DS1351104109 – 4U7A8DS1X51104298

**Vehicle Type:** MPV

**Bodystyle:** Motor Home

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

A total of 172 Model Year 2004 Inspire motor homes are involved. All 172 motor homes are consumer owned.

A total of 171 Model Year 2005 Inspire motor homes are involved. All 171 motor homes are consumer owned.

A total of 37 Model Year 2005 Allure motor homes are involved. All 37 motor homes are consumer owned.

A total of 380 motor homes are involved.

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

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

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

**Brief summary of safety defect:**

A 12 volt Type I circuit breaker in the clearance light circuit of a motorhome did not protect the circuit from a too high amperage draw caused by a towed passenger vehicle.

**Detailed description of safety defect:**

Passenger vehicles that are towed behind a motorhome are wired into the motorhome's vehicle lighting system.

Certain passenger vehicle lighting systems when wired into the clearance light circuit of the motorhome will draw too much amperage causing the Type I 12 V circuit breaker to continuously reset until the circuit becomes so hot that the insulation on the wire begins to burn. The motorhome's vehicle related lighting systems are powered through a Smart Wheel control module.

The unchecked resetting of the Type I circuit breaker will result in the overheating of 12 V wire and insulation to a point that it could cause a fire.

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

A customer notified Country Coach on August 30, 2004, that a fire had occurred in the dash area of their motorhome due to the overheating of a circuit. The customer brought the motorhome to the Country Coach factory Service Center for an inspection. After inspecting the Smart Wheel module and performing some tests on the circuit it was determined on September 14, 2004, that a potential safety defect existed.

During the investigation, it was found that the customer had wired a towed passenger vehicle's lighting system into the motorhome's wiring system. The clearance light circuit of the motorhome was tapped into to power the passenger vehicle lights while in transit. The motorhome clearance lights are powered through the Smart Wheel control module located in the lower dash area in front of the driver. The Type I circuit breaker reset continuously until the wire and insulation started to burn.

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

Country Coach has determined that the repair for this defect will be that all 12 V Type I circuit breakers, other than the circuit breaker on the ignition circuit, be replaced with 12 V Type II circuit breakers. The 12 V Type II circuit breaker remains open once tripped until power is removed and reapplied, or the over-current cause is removed.

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 October 15, 2004. All mailings will be by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and First Class Mail.