

Thursday, September 16, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE (4 pages) AND COURIER

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

04V-966
(4 pages)
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SEP 22 P 4:55

Re: Defect Information Report

On September 14, 2004 Home & Park Motorhomes concluded that a defect which relates to the spare tire carrier (so called "Continental Kit") used on Roadtrek class "B" motorhomes exists in some of the motor vehicles built in the last 3 years and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1. **Manufacturer:** Home & Park Motorhomes
Hammar Motor Corporation
100 Shirley Ave.
Kitchener, ON N2B 2E1
- Designated Agent:** Joe Cecconi Sr.
Joe Cecconi's Chrysler Complex
2380 Military Road
Niagara Falls, NY, 13404
- Manufacturer's Contact Person:** Alex Nastasescu P.Eng.
Engineering Mgr.
Phone: 519-745-1169/120
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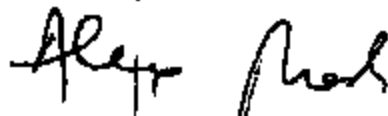
2. Vehicles affected by this defect are class "B" motorhomes 2002/2004 Roadtrek 170, 190 and 210 models, built on Chevrolet 2500/3500 van chassis. (A complete list of VINs for units which may be affected will follow).
3. A total of 1001 vehicles may contain the defect.
- 2002 - 19 units
 - 2003 - 317 units
 - 2004 - 665 units



4. It is estimated that about 3-5% of the total population can have the condition leading to failure. The recall will cover 100% of the units built by Home & Park Motorhomes using the optional spare tire carrier on 2002/2004 Chevrolet vans, from July 2002 (beginning of implementation of the above mentioned carrier), to September 2004. The carriers are manufactured by Cornell Welding and Fabricating of Woodstock ON and is assembled to the van by Home & Park Motorhomes. Home & Park Motorhomes changed the design and revised the assembly process beginning September 03, 2004 and all carriers are now assembled according to the new manufacturing process.
5. The design of the spare tire carrier allows attachment of the carrier to the van by inserting the square tubing and into the trailer hitch cross-tube (not the hitch receiver) and locking it in position by bolting its supporting bracket to the chassis (see attached). The design intent of this supporting bracket is to position the carrier into the trailer hitch cross-tube on the driver side of the van and to lock it in position by not allowing it to slide out. Due to some variance in the internal dimensions of the trailer hitch cross-tube (off the shelf component H&P buys from Draw-Tite) and the outside dimensions of the matching part of the carrier, the gap between these 2 components varies. When an excessive gap is present the movement/vibration of the carrier increases and the movement/load is transferred partially to the locking bracket. This vibration/stress can fatigue the bracket and lead to fracture. If the bracket breaks continuous vibration may cause the carrier to slowly slide out of the trailer hitch cross-tube and fall on the road (on units with the optional plastic bumper cover - 75% of total units - the carrier has to break a portion of the plastic cover before it can slide totally out of the cross-tube)
Excessive movement/vibration of the spare tire can alert some drivers that something is wrong.
6. The determination of the defect is based on the durability test performed on a new model introduced in May 2004 and one warranty claim received by H&P Service department on July 2004. There are no reports of accidents or injuries related to the defect at this time.
7. All carriers will be solidly welded to the trailer hitch cross-tube, eliminating all vibration due to excessive movement between the 2 matching components.
8. The owners/dealers of the affected vehicles will be notified by mail and phone in the next 15 to 30 days. A draft copy of the notification documents will be faxed to you as soon as they are available.

Yours truly,

HOME & PARK MOTORHOMES



Alex Nastasescu P.Eng.
Engineering Manager

- cc: Jeff Hanemaayer, President & CEO
 Doug Porter, Quality Manager
 Andy Knowles, Sales Director
 Ben Spengen, Production Manager
 George Clements, Warranty/Service Manager
 Joe Ceccoli Sr., Designated Agent

