

Thursday, November 11, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE (2 pages) AND COURIER

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

Re: Defect Information Report

On November 11, 2004 Home & Park Motorhomes concluded that a defect which relates to the tire valve stem used on Roadtrek class "B" motorhomes with aluminum rims exists in some of the motor vehicles built in the last 12 months 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
Hanmar 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
Fax: 519-745-1170

2. Vehicles affected by this defect are 2003/2004 class "B" motorhomes Roadtrek 170, 190 and 210 models, built on Chevrolet 2500/3500 van chassis. (A complete list of VINs for units which may be affected is available).
3. A total of 660 vehicles may contain the defect. All of them are equipped with aluminum rims.
2003 - 39 units
2004 - 621 units

4. It is estimated that about 1-2% of the total population can have some degree of failure. The recall will cover 100% of the units built by Home & Park Motorhomes using the optional aluminum rims on 2003/2004 Chevrolet vans, from November 2003 (when the operation of replacing the GM steel rims with aluminum rims was changed from being done at an outside supplier to being done in house), to October 2004 when the valve stems were changed to ones with higher pressure rating. The valve stems are manufactured by Eaton Corporation of Roxboro, NC and presently they are assembled to rims by Home & Park Motorhomes. Home & Park Motorhomes changed the valve stems from 65psi rating to new ones with 100psi rating in October, 2004.
5. The operation of replacing the GM steel rims with aluminum rims (available as an option) was moved from an outside supplier (a tire shop) to Home & Park, as an internal operation. During the transition the valve stems changed from being supplier's responsibility to being ordered by Home & Park. By mistake, Home & Park ordered and used valve stems with pressure rating lower than the maximum pressure allowed for the tires used on the van (valve stems with rating of 65psi vs. 80psi rating for the tires).
In terms of advanced warning of potential failure, some valves may leak. If drivers take their vans to a tire shop for repairs it is possible that the tire technician will identify the problem.
6. The determination of the defect is based on one customer's report. The mistake was noticed by an outside tire shop where one of our customers went for a tire air leak.
We are not aware of reports of accidents or injuries related to the defect at this time.
7. All valve stems will be replaced with properly rated ones (100psi).
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 Ceconi Sr., Designated Agent