



September 23, 2004

DEC -18 A # 25

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.
400 - 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

04V-608
(9 pages)

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Winnebago Industries, Inc. submits the following report pursuant to Part 573 of the NHTSA regulations. The numbered paragraphs below correspond to those found at Part 573.5(c).

1. Winnebago Industries, Inc.
605 W. Crystal Lake Road
Forest City, IA 50436
2. The motor vehicles potentially containing the defect are on certain 2004 and 2005 model year Winnebago[®] and Itasca[®] (Models: Rialta[®], Sightseer[®], Sunova[®], Brave[®], Voyage, Sunrise[®], Adventurer[®], Suncruiser[®], Chieftain[®], Sunflyer[®], Journey[®], Meridian[™], Vectra[®], and Horizon[®]) motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured September 8, 2003 through April 30, 2004. The vehicles were identified using production records showing models and VINs.
3. The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is: 6,201.
4. It is estimated that 100 percent of the vehicles contain the defect.
5. Am-Safe Commercial Products (supplier to Winnebago Industries[®]) has decided that your seat belt may fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies." These seat belts do not meet the strength requirements of FMVSS 209. The consequence of this nonconformance is, in the event of a vehicle crash, the buckle could release leaving the occupant unrestrained, possibly resulting in serious injury or even death.
6. Am-Safe Commercial Products, Inc., 240-C N. 48th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85043, Winnebago's seat belt supplier, informed us of the defect. Reference: NHTSA #04E-024.
7. N/A.
8. Winnebago Industries, Inc., in conjunction with Am-Safe Commercial Products, will remedy this situation by replacing defective belt. Winnebago estimates the dealer letter will be mailed on or about November 12, 2004. The owner letter will be mailed two weeks later.
9. Enclosed is a copy of the dealer letter in draft form.

Recall92/1

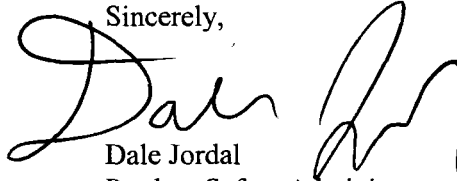
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Page Two

10. Enclosed is a copy of the owner letter in draft form.

11. The recall documents will carry the Winnebago Industries, Inc. Number 92.

Should you have questions regarding this information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Dale Jordal
Product Safety Administrator

Recall92/2

Enclosure

c: Ray Beebe
Steve Evenson
Marv Nieman
Donna Bindel

TO: Winnebago Industries, Inc. Dealers

SUBJECT: Campaign #92 – Am-Safe Seat Belt Buckle

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended, provides that each vehicle which is subject to a recall campaign of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the owner has tendered it for repair. A failure to adequately repair within 60 days after tender of a vehicle is prima facie evidence of failure to repair within a reasonable time.

If the condition is not adequately repaired within a reasonable time, the owners may be entitled to an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle at no charge or to a refund of the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for depreciation.

To avoid having to provide these burdensome solutions, every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each owner and to repair their vehicle as soon as possible. As you will see in reading the enclosed copy of the letter which is being sent to owners, the owners are being instructed to contact Winnebago Industries, Inc. if you do not remedy the condition within five days of the mutually agreed upon service date. If the condition is not remedied within a reasonable time, they are instructed on how to contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Winnebago Industries, Inc., has been informed that a defect exists on certain 2004 and 2005 model year Winnebago[®] and Itasca[®] (Models: Rialta[®], Sightseer[®], Sunova[®], Brave[®], Voyage, Sunrise[®], Adventurer[®], Suncruiser[®], Chieftain[®], Sunflyer[®], Journey[®], Meridian[™], Vectra[®], and Horizon[®]) motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured September 8, 2003 through April 30, 2004.

Am-Safe Commercial Products (supplier to Winnebago Industries[®]) has decided that your seat belt may fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies." These seat belts do not meet the strength requirements of FMVSS 209. The consequence of this nonconformance is, in the event of a vehicle crash, the buckle could release leaving the occupant unrestrained, possibly resulting in serious injury or even death.

OWNER NOTIFICATION

Owners will be notified of this campaign on their vehicles by Winnebago Industries, Inc. For all units in your inventory, the notification will be mailed to you. **DO NOT DELIVER TO A CUSTOMER ANY SUBJECT UNIT UNTIL CORRECTIVE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.** Enclosed is a list of vehicles shipped to you.

DEALER CAMPAIGN RESPONSIBILITY

Dealers are to service all vehicles subject to this campaign at no charge to owners regardless of mileage, age of vehicle, or ownership from this time forward.

Whenever a vehicle subject to this campaign is taken into new or used vehicle inventory, or it is in your dealership for service in the future, you should take the steps necessary to be sure the campaign correction has been made before reselling or releasing the vehicle. Owners of vehicles recently sold from your new vehicle inventory are to be contacted by the dealer, and arrangements made to make the required correction according to instructions contained in this campaign.

INSTRUCTION TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN #92

Affected Models:

Certain 2004 and 2005 model year Winnebago[®] and Itasca[®] (Models: Rialta[®], Sightseer[®], Sunova[®], Brave[®], Voyage, Sunrise[®], Adventurer[®], Suncruiser[®], Chieftain[®], Sunflyer[®], Journey[®], Meridian[™], Vectra[®], and Horizon[®]) motor homes built September 8, 2003 through April 30, 2004.

Repair Procedure:

Refer to instruction sheet for inspection and replacement of seat belt(s).

Parts Information:

You will need to determine per vehicle how many belts are needed. Order the following Parts from Winnebago Industries using the WIN NET system. You will need the recall dealer number (7662) and the Winnebago Industries serial number of the affected vehicle to place the order.

Dealer Number: 7662

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Part Description</u>	<u>Winnebago Part Number</u>	<u>Am-Safe</u>
1	Belt Buckle Assembly	091990-04-792	WELR-G
1	Belt Buckle Assembly	091990-04-792	1-4024
1	Belt Buckle Assembly	114258-04-792	90ER
1	Belt Buckle Assembly	118350-04-792	ODELR-R
1	Belt Buckle Assembly	118350-04-792	1-1208
1	Belt Extension	091990-01-792	1-1331

REIMBURSEMENT

When the service has been completed, fill out your repair order that has the labor amount and labor operation number listed below.

PLEASE NOTE:

Use the labor operation number that is applicable to the number of buckles that were replaced. You may only use one operation number per vehicle.

	OPERATION NUMBER	TIME ALLOWANCE
INSPECTION OF ALL SEAT BELTS: - or -	24920101	.5 hr.
REPLACEMENT OF <u>BUCKLE</u> SIDE OF SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY for 1-2 BUCKLES -or-	24920201	.8 hr.
REPLACEMENT OF <u>BUCKLE</u> SIDE OF SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY for 3-4 BUCKLES -or-	24920301	1.0 hr.
REPLACEMENT OF <u>BUCKLE</u> SIDE OF SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY for 5-6 BUCKLES	24920401	1.3 hr.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

Recall92/5 Enclosures

**RE: BODY SERIAL
CHASSIS SERIAL**

Dear Owner:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Our records indicate that you have purchased a vehicle with the serial number which appears above. If you have paid to have this defect corrected, you may be eligible for reimbursement. To be eligible, you must meet the requirements described in the enclosed Reimbursement Plan Notice.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Winnebago Industries, Inc., has been informed that a defect exists on certain 2004 and 2005 model year Winnebago[®] and Itasca[®] (Models: Rialta[®], Sightseer[®], Sunova[®], Brave[®], Voyage, Sunrise[®], Adventurer[®], Suncruiser[®], Chieftain[®], Sunflyer[®], Journey[®], Meridian[™], Vectra[®], and Horizon[®]) motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured September 8, 2003 through April 30, 2004.

Am-Safe Commercial Products (supplier to Winnebago Industries[®]) has decided that your seat belt may fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies." These seat belts do not meet the strength requirements of FMVSS 209. The consequence of this nonconformance is, in the event of a vehicle crash, the buckle could release leaving the occupant unrestrained, possibly resulting in serious injury or even death.

WHAT WE WILL DO

Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealers will replace the defective belt assembly at no charge to you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Please contact your Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealer immediately to arrange for an appointment. Please allow sufficient time for your dealer to obtain the kit for this recall. The labor time necessary to perform this correction will be approximately one hour. Please allow time for the dealer to process your vehicle.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealers are best equipped to obtain parts and provide service to ensure your vehicle is corrected as promptly as possible. HOWEVER, if you take your vehicle to the dealer on the agreed date and he does not service this condition on that date or within five days, we recommend you contact Winnebago Industries, Inc., Attn.: Owner Relations Representative (641-585-6939). If you are still unable to obtain such installation without charge to you and within a reasonable time, you may contact the Administrator, N.H.T.S.A., Washington, DC 20590, or call toll free, Auto Safety Hot Line, 888-327-4236.

Presentation of this letter to the service center will assist in making the necessary correction to your vehicle in the shortest possible time. If you have sold or traded your vehicle, please let us know by completing the postage-paid owner reply card and returning it to us.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

We are sorry to cause you this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products. This letter does not constitute an acknowledgment of legal liability.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

Recall92/6

Enclosure

REIMBURSEMENT PLAN NOTICE

Dear Owner:

If you have already paid to have this defect or noncompliance corrected (Winnebago Industries® Recall No. 92), you may be eligible for reimbursement under this plan.

TO BE ELIGIBLE, YOU MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. You own or have owned a Winnebago® or an Itasca® (Models: Rialta®, Sightseer®, Sunova®, Brave®, Voyage, Sunrise®, Adventurer®, Suncruiser®, Chieftain®, Sunflyer®, Journey®, Meridian™, Vectra®, and Horizon®) motor home built between September 8, 2003 through April 30, 2004.
2. You have paid to replace a defective seat belt assembly.
3. The repair was performed on or prior to November 12, 2004.
4. You have the original repair order or invoice showing:
 - ♦ Vehicle model and year or VIN.
 - ♦ Repair date.
 - ♦ Itemized labor charges including description of the seat belt replacement.
 - ♦ Your name and address at the time of repair.
 - ♦ Name and address of repair shop.

TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT:

1. Complete the reimbursement application. (See reverse side.)
2. Mail this application along with the original copy of the repair order or invoice to:

Attention: Owner Relations
Winnebago Industries, Inc.
605 West Crystal Lake Road
P.O. Box 152
Forest City, IA 50436

3. Retain copies of repair order or invoice for your records.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION

Recall92/7

**REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION
WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES, INC.**

RECALL CAMPAIGN NO. 92

Please Print All Information:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

(If we need additional information)

INSTRUCTIONS TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN #92

Replacement of Seat Belt Buckle Assembly on a Limited Number of Class A Motorhomes and Rialta Motorhomes

PROCEDURE –

The basic procedure involves inspecting all safety belt assemblies in the coach and, if necessary, replacing the buckle portion of the belt.

The Am-Safe seat belt buckle involved in this campaign is an end-release style buckle identified by a red release button with the word "PRESS" embossed onto it as shown in photos 1 and 2.

Buckles with a center button release containing an oval globe logo are not included in this campaign.

This campaign involves replacing only the buckle-end of the belt— not the tongue-end.



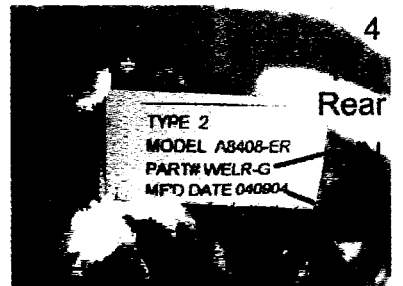
Step 1 – Inspect Seat Belt Buckle Part Number

- Look for the product tag label near the anchor bolt bracket of the tongue-end belt assembly as shown in photos 3 and 4.
- If the belt also includes an extension (shown in photo 5) inspect the part number and manufactured date of the extension as well.
- Inspect the **part number** of the belt assembly (NOT the model number). **The buckle assembly must be replaced if the tag contains a part number and date code shown in the chart below.** Defective buckles will have one of the part numbers shown and date codes in MMDDYY (2-digit month, date, year) sequence.



This photo shows the 'front' of the tag.

Assembly Type	Am-Safe Part No.	Replace belts within range of Mf'd Date:	Order Wbgo Part No.
three-point	WELR-G	9-5-03 to 3-22-04	091990-04-792
three-point	I-4024	9-8-03 to 3-22-04	091990-04-792
three-point	I-1208	12-12-03	118350-04-792
lap belt	ODELR-R	9-8-03 to 3-22-04	118350-04-792
lap belt	90ER	9-8-03 to 3-22-04	114258-04-792
extension	I-1331	1-5-04	091990-01-792



This photo shows the 'back' of the tag, which includes the pertinent information, including model no., part no., and date of manufacture.

- **NOTE:** If the part number is not shown on the chart, no replacement is required. If the recall has already been performed, there will be a tag near the buckle on the replaced belt. If a front seat 3-point belt buckle has been replaced, there will be a hole punched into the plastic belt sheath mounted to the side of the seat.



Belt Extension

Step 2 – Remove and Replace Seat Belt (Buckle-End Assembly Only)

- Remove the bolt from the anchor bracket of the buckle-end belt assembly.
- Replace with new belt/buckle assembly.
- **Torque lap belt** anchor bolts to **39-49 Ft. Lbs.** (53 – 67 Nm)
- **Torque 3-point belt** anchor bolts to **46–66 Ft. Lbs.** (66–89 Nm).
- No floor covering or other material shall be allowed between the belt anchor and its mounting surface.
- Repeat for all other affected buckle/belt assemblies in coach.

Step 3 – Return Defective Buckle Assemblies to Am-Safe

- Return all defective belt buckle assemblies directly to Am-Safe Commercial Products using the shipping labels provided. Submit freight reimbursement under the 'sublet' column in the recall claim.
- Contact Winnebago Industries warranty department for additional shipping labels if needed.