



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

DEC - 2 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Norman L. Helmke
Director of Administrations
Featherlite, Inc.
P.O. Box 320
U.S. Hwy 63 & Hwy 69
Cresco, IA 52136-0320

NVS-215kjs

Dear Mr. Helmke:

Featherlite, Inc. (Featherlite) is requested, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30165, 30166, and 30119, to renotify owners involved in safety recall 04V-253 who have not had their snowmobile trailers corrected or otherwise accounted for. This recall involves 209 MY 2001 through 2004 snowmobile trailers manufactured from April 29, 2001, through April 25, 2004. Inadequate welds that attach the axles to the body of the trailer can fail.

The remedy for this recall is to re-weld the axle to the trailer. Owner notification began on June 1, 2004. Through the third quarter of 2005, Featherlite's sixth reporting quarter, Featherlite reports that of the 209 trailers involved, 45 have been remedied, resulting in a completion rate of 23 percent.

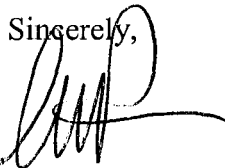
Featherlite should conduct the owner renotification in accordance with the guidelines listed below.

- Before conducting the owner renotification, Featherlite should obtain an updated owner list, for this recall campaign, based on current state motor vehicle registration records.

- Featherlite's proposed owner renotification letter for this recall must meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.10, "Follow-up Notification," and must be submitted to NHTSA for review before owner renotification begins. Part 577.10(e)(1) specifically requires that the renotification letter be identified as a ". . . follow-up to an earlier communication."
- In addition to the six quarterly status reports required under 49 CFR Part 573.6, "Quarterly Reports," Featherlite is requested to file three additional quarterly status reports.
- Furnish a proposed schedule for conducting the owner renotification that includes the following information:
 - a. the date on which the search of current state motor vehicle registration records will be initiated in order to update the original owner list;
 - b. the approximate date on which the revised owner list will be available to initiate owner renotification;
 - c. the approximate date on which the owner renotification will begin; and
 - d. the approximate date on which the owner renotification will be completed (if the owner renotification is to be staggered, give the beginning and ending owner renotification date for each segment).

Featherlite's renotification schedule and a draft of the proposed owner renotification letter must be submitted to this office by December 29, 2005.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Kelly Schuler of my staff at (202) 366-5227, by fax at (202) 366-7882, or by e-mail at kschuler@nhtsa.dot.gov.

Sincerely,


George Person, Chief
Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement