



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

OCT 12 2005

DANIEL BENSMAN
FAULKNER, GARMHAUSEN, KEISTER & SHENK
COURTVIEW CENTER SUITE 300
100 SOUTH MAIN AVENUE
SIDNEY OH 45365

NVS-215
05V-465

Subject: FOUR WINDS/HITCH SPACER PLATE REPLACEMENT

Dear MR. BENSMAN:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

FOUR WINDS/CHATEAU CITATION/2006
FOUR WINDS/DUTCHMEN DORADO/2006
FOUR WINDS/HURRICANE/2006
FOUR WINDS/MAGELLAN/2006
FOUR WINDS/SIESTA/2006
FOUR WINDS/WINDSPORT/2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-465

Mfg's Report Date: October 05, 2005

Components:

TRAILER HITCHES

Potential Number of Units Affected: 221

Summary:

ON CERTAIN CLASS A AND CLASS B MOTORHOMES, THE HITCH MAY HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURED WITH A SPACER PLATE THAT DOES NOT FIT FLUSH TO THE REAR EXTENSION.

Consequence:

THIS CAUSES THE FASTENERS TO BE CORNER LOADED WHEN TIGHTENED WHICH COULD CAUSE THE HITCH TO FAIL DURING USAGE CAUSING A CRASH WHICH COULD RESULT IN DEATH AND INJURY.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSTALL A NEW SPACER PLATE AND ADD SIX NEW BOLTS, WASHERS AND NUTS TO SECURE THE SPACER PLATE IN PLACE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 7, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT FOUR WINDS AT 574-266-1111.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577. On paragraph three, please replace the word 'accident' with 'crash,' i.e., "Under certain conditions this defect can cause the hitch to fail during usage causing a crash which could result in a death or injury."

The information in your defect or noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following item:

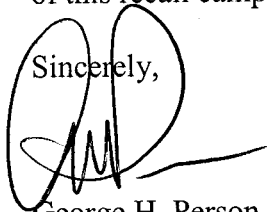
Please provide the date of when the manufacturer became aware of the recall.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin on November 7, 2005. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by January 30, 2006.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



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