



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

November 2, 2005

RONALD W. POST
PRODUCT SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR
WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES, INC.
605 W. CRYSTAL LAKE ROAD
FOREST CITY IA 50436

NVS-215
05V-496

Subject: STEERING COLUMN CINCH BOLT

Dear MR. POST:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect 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:

ITASCA/ELLIPSE/2006
ITASCA/MERIDIAN/2006
WINNEBAGO/JOURNEY/2006
WINNEBAGO/TOUR/2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-496

Mfg's Report Date: October 28, 2005

Components: STEERING:COLUMN

Potential Number of Units Affected: 152

Summary:

ON CERTAIN MOTOR HOMES, THE CINCH BOLT, WHERE THE STEERING COLUMN CONNECTS TO THE INTERMEDIATE SHAFT, WAS IMPROPERLY TIGHTENED. THIS COULD RESULT IN THE BOLT THREADS BEING STRIPPED, CONCEIVABLY NOT PROVIDING A TIGHT JOINT.

Consequence:

IF THE JOINT IS LOOSE, THE INTERMEDIATE SHAFT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SLIP OFF THE SPLINE SHAFT OF THE STEERING COLUMN CAUSING LOSS OF STEERING CONTROL. THIS COULD RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY OR VEHICLE AND PROPERTY DAMAGE.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND REPLACE THE CINCH BOLT AND NUT. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 18, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT WINNEBAGO AT 641-585-6939.

Notes:

WINNEBAGO RECALL NO. 98. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

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

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

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it meets the requirements of Part 577.


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 18, 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