



05U-092
(3 pages)

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

February 25, 2005

Director, Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Part # 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC.

Dear Mr. Person;

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC has determined that a potential safety defect may exist on certain 2005 MY Coachmen Mirada, Aurora, Epic and Santara Class A motorhomes. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility from September 28, 2004 through February 15, 2005.

We believe that 251 units in total are potentially affected by this defect.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

It has been discovered that on the affected vehicles, the supplier of the bracket that attaches the motorhome's hitch receiver to the motorhome chassis had used the wrong grade of steel to manufacture these brackets. As a result, this bracket may fracture when the motorhome is towing a vehicle or trailer. If these brackets fail, the hitch assembly becomes disengaged from the motorhome and whatever is being towed behind the vehicle becomes free and could cause an accident.

DISCOVERY OF THE DEFECT

The defect was discovered during the delivery of one of our motorhomes to a dealership.

PRECLUSION OF POTENTIAL DEFECT

The manufacturer of these brackets will require certifications with receipt for all steel used in the production of these brackets to insure they are receiving and utilizing the correct grade of steel. These certifications will be made available to Coachmen upon our request to verify this process is being adhered to.

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC will supply the necessary instructions for making the repairs to remedy this defect. The repairs will be done by Coachmen dealers at no expense to the dealers or the retail customers.

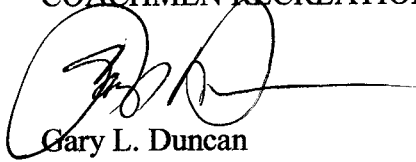
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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

All purchasers and dealerships that receive these units with the potential defect will be advised by mail regarding this problem. A copy of our proposed owner notification letter is attached for review and approval. We will start the mailing campaign and begin providing the recall remedy within 5 days of your approval of this letter.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please advise.

Very Truly Yours,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary L. Duncan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Attachments:

Cc: Rick Lavers – Coachmen Industries
Michael Terlep, Jr. – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company LLC



COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

March 14, 2005

Dear Coachmen Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Coachmen RV Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2005 Mirada, Aurora, Santara and Epic Class A motorhomes built from September 28, 2004 through February 15, 2005.

SAFETY DEFECT

On affected vehicles, the rear hitch attachment brackets that connect the hitch assembly to the chassis frame may crack at the 90-degree bend. If this were to occur, the potential exists for a complete separation of the hitch assembly from the chassis, resulting in an accident due to a loss of control of the towed vehicle or trailer. **DO NOT USE THE REAR HITCH ON YOUR MOTORHOME FOR ANY PURPOSE UNTIL THE REQUIRED REPAIRS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED.**

REPAIRS

PLEASE TAKE YOUR UNIT PROMPTLY TO YOUR COACHMEN DEALER. At no charge to you, the Coachmen dealer will perform the necessary repairs to the hitch assembly attachment brackets. The necessary repairs should not take more than two (2) hours.

REFUNDS

If you have paid to have this service performed prior to receiving this notice you can receive a full refund. Please mail your paid original invoice or receipt to Coachmen RV Service, P.O. Box 1000, Middlebury, Indiana 46540.

CHANGED ADDRESS OR SOLD THE VEHICLE?

Please fill out the enclosed pre-paid postcard and mail it to us if you have changed your address or sold the vehicle.

Any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If your dealer does not make the required repair promptly and without charge, you may contact Coachmen Customer Service at 1-800-453-6064. You also may contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

We regret the inconvenience this situation may have caused you. However, Coachmen RV Company believes in the early detection and immediate correction of potential concerns. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC