

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports**<sup>1</sup>

05V-101  
(8 pages)

On January 10, 2005, Western World, Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: March 10, 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): n/a

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Western World, Inc.

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

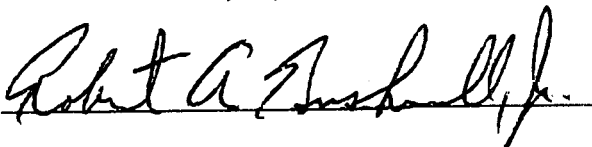
Robert A. Bushnell, Jr., President

Telephone Number: (208) 459-0842 Fax No.: (208) 459-0106

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Robert A. Bushnell, Jr., President

Signed:



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2005 MAR 17 P 3:36  
OFFICE OF DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION

<sup>1</sup> Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition, which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

**I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall**

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Circle J Model Years Involved: 2003 – 2005 Model(s): Living Quarter Goosenecks

Production Dates: Beginning: 3/12/03 Ending: 7/15/04

VIN Range: Beginning: 46YHG242431068330 Ending: 46YHG302951071688

Vehicle Type: LQGN Bodystyle: Gooseneck

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Wheels are aluminum with the words "Made in Argentina" on the back of the rim.

Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

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Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

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Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

100%

## II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
Circle J LQGN	2003	2
Circle J LQGN	2004	43
Circle J LQGN	2005	12

57 Trailers were sold with suspect wheels:

39 Trailers have had the wheels or hubs exchanged by Tredit Tire & Wheel Co., Inc.

9 Trailers are in the process of having the wheels exchanged by Tredit.

9 Trailer owners have been notified by letter from Western World, Inc., and the dealers have attempted to make contacts by phone. We have had no response from those 9 owners.

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: Fifty-seven (57) Units**

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

All Trailers with suspect aluminum wheels (Circle J Living Quarters with 16" aluminum wheels) with thick rims and insufficient thread engagement.

### **III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance**

**5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

Suspected insufficient thread engagement length with lug nut and stud on 16" aluminum wheels used on our Living Quarters Gooseneck products. Western World, Inc. has coordinated this campaign notification with Tom Bowman of ODI. He is familiar with the technical aspects of this issue. The insufficient thread engagement creates the risk that the wheel could come off.

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

The wheels and nuts may not maintain a solid clamp due to decreased length of engagement. The supplier provided these wheels for uses they were aware of and to be mounted on existing hubs and lug bolt lengths.

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

Wheels might separate from the axle hub because of thick rims and limited thread engagement.

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.**

None.

**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.**

Tredit Tire & Wheel Co., Inc.  
57941 Charlotte Avenue  
Elkhart, IN 46517

**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:**

Mr. Terry O'Rourke, President

### **IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.*

**6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents,**

**injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

On or about July 1 of 2004, I was told that our production people were concerned about the thread engagement of aluminum wheels we had received from Tredit Tire & Wheel Co., Inc. I had our purchasing agent contact the Tredit representative and had him come to examine our mounting procedures for these wheels.

On or about July 15 of 2004, Tim Moynihan, our Tredit representative, visited our plant, observed our practices and told me they were consistent with the recommended procedures. He said other manufacturers were using these wheels and that the thread engagement seemed to be sufficient.

When I heard about a potential clamp problem with broken studs, on or about September 5, 2004, I asked our Tredit representative if we were using the right components and installing them properly. After observing our process again on site, he told me we were using the right components and installing them properly. When two other potential stud problems came to my attention on or about September 17, 2004, I ordered our staff to stop using all aluminum wheels while the industry develops standards. We took immediate steps to be cautious, including the removal of the aluminum wheels from all products still on our premises. Since we have no independent engineering resources, we had relied on our supplier for advice as to proper components and mounting procedures. We still are not using any aluminum wheels on our Living Quarters Gooseneck products and will not resume using them until we get written assurances from Tredit Tire & Wheel Co., Inc. that all components and procedures are sufficient for reliable clamping.

**7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.**

None.

**V. Identify the Remedy**

**8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.**

We discontinued using the aluminum wheels on or about September 15, 2004.

When an industry panel was assembled in October to discuss wheel clamp issues, I attended that meeting and continue to participate in their proceedings

We arranged with Tredit Tire & Wheel Co., Inc. and U.S. Wheel to replace wheels in the field on or about October 4, 2004.

The replacement program is in process. Western World, Inc. has made contact with trailer purchasers through our dealers and by notice via mail. Tredit is coordinating the actual replacement activities with our dealers.

All owners have been contacted by letter and most by phone and will have wheels replaced at Western World dealer locations or at other authorized service facilities unless they refuse to do so.

**9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

Replace suspect wheels. Tredit Tire & Wheel Co., Inc. will supply appropriate replacement wheels to the Western World dealer.

**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.**

A thinner mounting face of replacement wheels will allow increased length of thread engagement.

**Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.**

Discontinued using the suspect wheels and all other aluminum wheels as of September 15, 2004, prox. Agreed with Tredit Tire & Wheel Co., Inc. on October 4, 2004, prox. that they would replace suspect wheels in the field by working with our sales personnel and our dealers.

We relied on the dealers to make initial contact with the owners of the suspect products. When it became clear that the dealers were unable to contact some of those owners, we sent a registered letter to the known address of the owner informing them of the potential problem and asking them to contact us, or the dealer. A copy of that letter is attached.

We have not resumed using any aluminum wheels as of this date.

## **VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

**10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.**

In progress. The Dealers have contacted most of the customers to arrange wheel replacement with Tredit Tire's assistance. Thirty-nine (39) owners have had wheels or hubs replaced and nine (9) owners are coordinating this replacement with their Dealers at this time for a total of forty-eight (48) replacements. Western World has sent a letter, dated January 29, 2005, to all customers who have not arranged for the replacements as of that date. All customers have been identified and notified by letter unless they already have accomplished or arranged for replacement of the wheels.

## **VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

**11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.***

**Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.**

# WESTERN WORLD, INC.

CIRCLE J



Safety, Comfort & Convenience

200 N. KIT AVENUE  
CALDWELL, IDAHO 83605  
PH: (800) CIRCLE J (247-2535)  
PH: (208) 459-0842 FAX (208) 459-6100  
WWW.CIRCLEJTRAILERS.COM

CIRCLE J



Safety, Comfort & Convenience

January 29, 2005

Dear:

MARY JEAN WILSON  
9405 BOWLING CREEK RD.  
TILLAMOOK, OR. 97141

Tredit Tire is working with Circle J to ensure we continue to offer the best service in the industry (even after the sale). We have been notified that few of the Living Quarter trailers we sold in early 2004 have the same Aluminum wheels that were used in the RV industry. Some of those wheels have had lug nuts come loose when not properly tightened to the required torque amount (120 lb). As a safety precaution, Tredit is replacing the wheels in question with new ones.

Please contact Tom Moynihan at 801-978-0317 to arrange for the replacement of your Aluminum Rims as soon as possible. Tredit will make this procedure as simple as possible for your convenience.

Here at Circle J, SAFETY is our number one priority, we not only support the action that Tredit is taking, we are asking you help make sure your Circle J trailer is the safest trailer possible. While this is not an official recall, and all participation is on a voluntary basis, it is very important we all do everything we can to make sure both you and your horse are safe.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Regards,

Bob Bushnell  
President  
Western World, Inc.