



Forest River, Inc.

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March 22, 2005

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(2 pages)

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

On March 14, 2005, Forest River, Inc. found evidence of the possibility of a noncompliance with a 1/2"-20 x 2" stainless steel capped lug nut as it relates to ANSI B1.1 that is referenced by SAE J2283 May 96.

Carlisle Tire and Wheel Company, 23 Windham Boulevard Aiken, SC 29805 distributes this lug nut. Their part number is A-N5R2DSS or part number 917829.

Forest River, Inc. had experiencing lug bolts and wheels coming off of two (2) travel trailers that use aluminum wheels and investigated the studs on the hubs, engagement of the cone in the wheel, torque specifications and methods of torque. We have satisfied ourselves that the hub studs are within specification and the torques are done correctly to specifications. This lead us to investigate the lug thread itself.

Forest River, Inc. began checking the minor thread diameter and thread pitch using a .4460 go/ .4575 no go plug gauge and a go-no go thread gauge for 1/2-20 2B thread. We tested a box of 20 lugs and 18 of the 20 failed the no/go on either the pitch or id of the minor thread maximum.

We have discussed this with Carlisle Tire and Wheel Company and they are conducting tests.

We feel that this is a safety issue and according to CFR Part 573.5 we are obligated to report this deficiency.

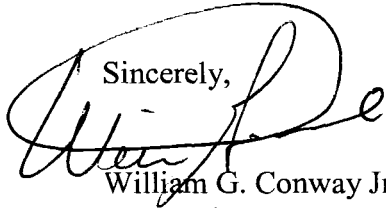
We do not know the number of units involved because we have used this lug in multiple plants, with both steel and aluminum wheels. Carlisle Tire informs us that they think that they changed to the supplier of this lug nut approximately 12-18 months ago but they are not sure of the date.

We are trying to compile the units involved by VIN and dealer or retailer as soon as we are able to obtain the time span in question.

We have discontinued using the lug nut in question and substituted a different product that meets the ANSI B1.1 requirements. We have changed all the units that we have presently at our different locations.

"The Two Forests of Forest River... Forming Relationships with Nature"

We will be working with Carlisle Tire and Wheel Company to determine a course of action on the lug nuts in question.

Sincerely,


William G. Conway Jr.

Forest River, Inc.

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