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April 29, 2005

**VIA FACSIMILE AND  
CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

05V-195  
(3 pages)

Mr. George H. Person  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Office of Defects Investigation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc. Recall  
Defect and Non-Compliance Report**

Dear Mr. Person:

Our office is general counsel for Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc. ("Dutchmen"), a manufacturer of travel trailers and fifth wheel trailers located in Goshen, Indiana. Dutchmen has been notified by RFD Components, Inc. ("RFD") that certain wheels sold to Dutchmen may have a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety. RFD initiated a safety recall campaign with your office in connection with this matter on April 5, 2005. NHTSA has assigned recall number 05E-031 for RFD's safety recall campaign.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain Dutchmen trailers may contain the wheels that have been determined by RFD to have a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety.

A. Manufacturer; Identification of Vehicles.

The manufacturer is Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc., 2164 Caragana Court, Goshen, Indiana 46526. Based on the information provided to Dutchmen by RFD, it is believed that the defect may be present on certain 2005 model year Dutchmen Lite, Four Winds Express,

Tundra, and Adirondack trailers manufactured during the period from February 15, 2005 through March 29, 2005. The total number of trailers subject to this recall campaign is 434, of which 296 have been shipped by Dutchmen. These trailers were manufactured at Dutchmen's Syracuse, Indiana and its Middlebury, Indiana facilities. Trailers manufactured by Dutchmen at its other facilities during this period are not affected.

B. Defect Description.

The defect involves the weld of the wheel's center hub to the wheel's rim. The defective weld is caused by the lack of penetration of the weld into the rim assembly. The defective weld is not readily observable by a visual inspection of the assembled and painted wheel.

RFD has determined that the defective wheels all have 01-01-05 date stamped on the inner side of the wheels.

It has been determined that a defective weld could result in a wheel separation incident involving the subject trailers. At the current time, Dutchmen is aware of a single incident involving a wheel separation resulting from a defective weld. This recall campaign is being conducted to prevent the possibility of any additional occurrences in the future.

C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Dutchmen determined through its own independent observation that certain RFD wheels experienced failures. Through consultation with RFD, a determination was made that the foregoing problem was caused by the defective weld, and that the wheels at issue contained a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety. As a result, RFD filed its defect and non-compliance report with NHTSA on April 5, 2005. RFD provided Dutchmen with a copy of its defect and non-compliance report so that Dutchmen was aware of the scope of its recall campaign and its applicability to trailers manufactured by Dutchmen.

D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the defect and non-compliance report filed by RFD, replacement wheels will be sent to dealers or purchasers of trailers containing the potentially defective wheels. The owners of the trailers subject to this recall campaign will be notified of the recall campaign and will be advised to contact RFD directly and will be provided assistance in contacting a local Dutchmen dealer or local tire service center to have the wheels replaced at no charge to the owner.

In order for RFD to remedy the defect referred to above, all of the owners of the trailers sold by Dutchmen that are subject to this recall campaign must be notified. Dutchmen will be providing RFD with the names and addresses of the current owners of the trailers subject to this recall campaign. RFD will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in its defect and non-compliance report.

Mr. George H. Person

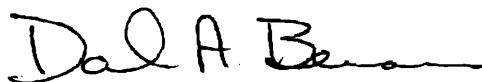
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- E. Owner Notifications. RFD will provide the notification letters to the owners of the motorhomes that are subject to this recall campaign, including the dealer stock units, in accordance with the procedures specified in its defect and non-compliance report.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. RFD will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with its recall campaign. Because the information included by RFD in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of all Dutchmen trailers subject to this recall campaign, Dutchmen will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication. However, Dutchmen will monitor the quarterly reports filed by RFD to insure that the trailers subject to this recall campaign are being remedied by RFD.
- G. Campaign Number. Dutchmen does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Dutchmen will use the recall campaign number assigned to RFD by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Dutchmen with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Dutchmen in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Daniel A. Bensman

nas

cc: Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc. (via fax)  
Mr. John M. Garmhausen