



Foretravel, inc.

1221 NW Stallings Drive
Nacogdoches, Texas 75964
936.564.8367 Fax 936.564.0391
www.foretravel.com

May 26, 2005

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

05V-249
(7 pages)

Re: Part 573 Defect and Non Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein,

Enclosed you will find the Part 573 Defect and Non Compliance Report prepared by Foretravel, Inc. regarding the Windshield Wiper Technology Overhead Wiper System Missing Circlip (snap ring) on Foretravel Motorhomes.

If you have questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to give me a call. My direct phone # is (936)-564-8367 extension 237, Fax # (936)-564-0391.

Sincerely,

Mark Harvey
Director of Warranty and Customer Assistance
Foretravel, Inc.

Enclosures:

RECEIVED
1005-215
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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report⁽¹⁾

On May 20, 2003, Foretravel, Inc. [MFR] decided that a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 571:S104 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 Reports.

Date this report was prepared: May 26, 2003

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.

Foretravel, Inc.
1221 NW Stallings Drive
Nacogdoches, TX 75964

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

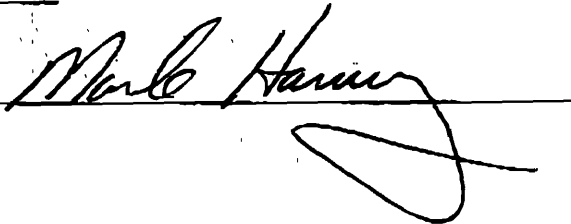
Mark Harvey
Director of Warranty and Customer Assistance
Foretravel, Inc.

Telephone Number: (936) 564-8367 Fax No.: (936) 559-8923

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Mark Harvey
Director of Warranty and Customer Assistance
Foretravel, Inc.

Signed: _____



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): Foretravel **Model Years Involved:** 2005 **Model(s):**
U270/U295/U295T/U320/U320T

Production Dates: Beginning: 04/27/2004 **Ending:** 03/04/2005

VIN Range: Beginning: 1F98D53675N054719 **Ending:** 1F98D53855N054753

Vehicle Type: Class "A" Motorhome **Bodystyle:** Unicoach

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

The wiper system circlips (snap rings), variable arch lever and rod end bearings are distinguishable. These are supplied to Foretravel, Inc. by an identifiable Vendor-Supplier. Further information will be supplied to NHTSA as it becomes available.

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?

An exact percentage of the 53 manufactured vehicles that may contain the actual potential defect cannot be determined at this time, but will be more specific and will provide that information to NHTSA as it becomes available.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Model: U270/U295/U295T/U320/U320T

Year: 2005

Number of Potentially Affected Vehicles: 53

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

Unknown at this time

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:

Foretravel, Inc. had seen evidence of potential issue in the production facility when a wiper would not properly wipe the w/s. This particular wiper system began usage in the 2005 year model. Some of these coaches are still in production. All 2005 year models had the same wiper system manufactured by the same Vendor-Supplier.

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.

The units involved have a dual wiper motor system. One motor for each wiper. Both assemblies are located in forward overhead cabinets above the driver and passenger. These assemblies each have a variable arch lever with two rod end bearings on each end. A circlip (Snap Ring) holds each rod end of the Variable arch lever in place.

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

Assembly procedures of the Vendor-Supplier not adhered to.

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

The rod end bearing may become detached from the Variable Arch lever.

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

Driver or wiper arm can stop moving during operation.

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

B. Hepworth and Co., Ltd. Of Connecticut, Inc
800 Flanders Road
Mystic, CT 06355

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

CEO – Jonathan Eddy (UK)

Vice President, US Operations – Doug Wright

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.

There have been no reports of accidents, injuries, fires, crashes, or fatalities with regard to this.

There have been no paid warranty claims to date.

05/20/2003-First noticed clips missing on assemblies being installed in production.

05/20/2003-Representatives of Foretravel began investigating other assemblies in stock finding other clips missing as well. Was decided enough evidence was available to contact supplier for resolution.

05/29/03-Representatives of Foretravel Inc. called Doug Wright with Windsheild Wiper Technologies and Doug located batch number and immediately sent 60 circlips (Snap Rings) to perform remedy on stock assemblies and units in production.

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.

Determined as above.

V. Identify the Remedy

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

Foretravel Inc. is in the process of preparing detailed instructions on installation of circlips, and how to complete the repair. This will include removal of accessing both wiper assemblies from the interior of the coach checking all connection points for clips and installing any that are that are missing.

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

Recalled component may not have circlips in proper location. Remedy will visibly show the presence of circlip.

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.

The production remedy is identical to recall remedy.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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.

1) Foretravel Inc. will begin sending customer notification letters to owners as quickly as possible in attempting to develop specific field repair instructions. These instructions will be forwarded to NHTSA as soon as they are completed.

2) The dealer /distributor /retailer network will be notified of the remedy with instructions as soon as they are completed by fax, and mail, accompanied with a sample copy of the customer notification letter. Dealers/retailers not linked with Foretravel Inc. directly will be notified by fax of potentially affected recall vehicles in their stock inventory.

3) Needed parts and any necessary instructions will be obtained from the Vendor/Supplier.

4) V.I.N. numbers of affected vehicles and owner's names and addresses will be obtained when remedy instructions are completed.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. 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 573.8 requirements.

1. ¹ 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 Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.