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May 27, 2005

05V-259
(11 pages)

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

Mr. George H. Person
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
400 Seventh Street, S.W. NSA-11
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Thor California, Inc. Recall
Defect and Non-Compliance Report**

Dear Mr. Person:

Our office is general counsel for Thor California, Inc. ("Thor California"), which is a manufacturer of travel trailers and fifth wheel trailers. On behalf of Thor California, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain fifth wheel trailers manufactured by Thor California may have a defect that has been determined to be safety related.

A. Manufacturer; Identification of Vehicles.

The manufacturer of the affected trailers is Thor California, Inc., 14255 Elsworth Street, Moreno Valley, California 92553-9013. The contact at Thor California is Brad Williams, Director of Service, who can be reached via telephone at (951) 697-4190 or via e-mail at twilliams@thorca.com.

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
2005 JUN -2 A 9:40
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Thor California has determined that a defect may be present on certain 2004 and 2005 model year Tahoe 36WTB, Wanderer 367WTB, and Jazz 36WTB fifth wheel trailers. These trailers were manufactured between July 2003 and October 2004. The total number of trailers that may contain the defect is 764. Based upon the information available to Thor California, it is believed that 100% of the subject trailers contain the defect.

B. Description of Defect.

The defect identified by Thor California involves the possibility that the axle spring hangers on the trailers may bend under extreme and/or repeated extreme side loading of the axles. If the bending of the axle spring hangers is severe or sudden, a loss of trailer control could occur.

At this time, Thor California is not aware of any accidents or injuries that have resulted from this safety defect. Thor California is instituting this recall campaign as a precautionary measure to prevent the possibility of any such occurrence in the future.

C. Remedying of Defect.

The program to be implemented by Thor California to remedy the defect will include notification in writing to all known registered owners of the subject trailers, included but not limited to all dealers with such trailers in stock. Thor California will, through its dealer service network, inspect the axle hangers to determine if any bending has already occurred, and repair that damage. Steel reinforcement will also be added to the axle hangers and chassis frame where necessary to reduce the possibility of this bending. Thor California will, through its dealer service network, perform this inspection and required repairs at no charge to the owner.

D. Owner and Dealer Notifications.

Enclosed as Exhibit "A" is a draft copy of our proposed notification letter to the registered owners of the trailers that contain the defect. Enclosed as Exhibit "B" is a draft copy of our proposed notification letter to all Thor California dealers. Also enclosed as Exhibit "C" is a draft copy of the Recall Service Bulletin that will be sent to the dealers along with the dealer notification letter, which summarizes the repair procedures to be implemented in connection with this recall campaign.

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
May 27, 2005
Page 3

The enclosed owner notification letter, dealer notification letter, and Recall Service Bulletin are being submitted to NHTSA for your pre-review. Thor California intends to mail the owner notification letters upon receipt of NHTSA's final approval of the recall procedures referred to herein.

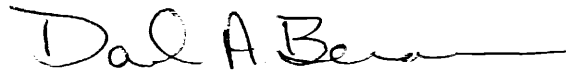
E. Campaign Number.

Thor California has assigned internal reference number 150030 for this recall campaign.

I would appreciate your providing me with a pre-review determination of the enclosed documents at your earliest convenience. Please contact the undersigned at (937) 492-1271 after you have had an opportunity to review the documents. I trust that you will find the enclosed documents comply with the NHTSA regulations and will approve the documents for form and content.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Daniel A. Bensman

dja/kk

Enclosures

cc: Thor California, Inc. w/encl (via fax)
John M. Garmhausen

THOR CALIFORNIA

RECALL NOTICE

RECALL CAMPAIGN No. **150030**

VIN:

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

Reason for Notification

THOR California, Inc. has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2004/2005 Tahoe 36WTB FW, Wanderer 367WTB FW and Jazz 36WTB FW model 5th-wheel trailers manufactured during the period from July 2003 through October 2004. According to our records, your trailer may contain this defect. For this reason we ask that you arrange for your dealer to correct your vehicle without delay. The service and required parts will be provided free of charge. **If you have sold or traded your trailer, please fill out the enclosed postcard and mail it to THOR California so that we can locate the current owner of the trailer.**

Description of Defect

We have determined that a possibility exists that under extreme and/or repeated extreme side-loading of the axles, bending of the spring hangers may occur. If this bending is severe or sudden, loss of trailer control could occur.

Description of Remedy

The program to be implemented by THOR California to remedy the defect includes this notification to all current owners of the subject trailers. To correct the defect, your dealer will inspect the axle hangers to determine if any bending has already occurred, and repair that damage. Steel reinforcement will also be added to the axle hangers and chassis frame where necessary to reduce the possibility of this bending. Failure to have this important recall completed may result in severe bending of the axle hangers, possible loss of trailer control while towing, and the possibility of a vehicle crash as a consequence of loss of trailer control. Please have this recall performed as soon as possible. Failure to do so could legally be determined to be lack of proper maintenance of your trailer.

What We Would Like You To Do

Please take your trailer to your selling dealer or any other authorized THOR California servicing dealer to have it inspected and the repairs performed. Dealers and service centers have been informed of this recall and are prepared to perform it to your satisfaction. This recall will be performed at no cost to you.

You should call your dealer or service center at your earliest convenience to schedule an appointment. When you take your trailer to the dealer, please bring this letter and your warranty/ownership documents with you. This will allow the dealer to prepare the necessary warranty forms most efficiently. The work will take about five (5) hours to complete. However, additional time may be required depending on how dealer appointments are scheduled and processed. Once the repairs are completed, please present the attached postcard to the repair facility for submission to THOR California.

If the defect referred to above has been repaired on your trailer before you received this recall notification, and if you incurred any direct cost in connection with obtaining such repair, you may seek reimbursement from THOR California. In order to obtain reimbursement, you must submit the following information: (1) *your name and mailing address*; (2) *the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for your trailer*; (3) *a reference to this recall campaign #150030*; (4) *a copy of the receipt or invoice for the repair*.

This reimbursement may be obtained by sending your request for reimbursement along with the above information to:

THOR California, Inc.
14255 Elsworth Street
Moreno Valley, CA 92553-9013
Customer Relations Department: (888) 697-8467

We have notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the recall and the procedures involved. However, should THOR California fail or be unable to correct the defect, without charge, you may write to:

*Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590*

or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236.

Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

We regret any inconvenience that this action may cause you. However, we are concerned about your safety. Thank you for your patience and support in helping us to keep you safe. We appreciate your continued loyalty to and confidence in THOR California and our products. It is our goal to continue to provide you with high-quality, high-value products for your recreational experience.

Sincerely Yours,

THORCALIFORNIA

RECALL NOTICE

RECALL CAMPAIGN No. 150030

Dear Dealer:

We have identified a group of 2004 and 2005 Tahoe 36WTB FW, Wanderer 367WTB FW and Jazz 36WTB FW 5th-wheel units that may be subject to axle hanger bending due to extreme and/or repeated extreme axle side-loading. A Safety Recall procedure has been initiated to inspect units and to repair any damage, and to install steel reinforcing to the axle hangers and frame rails. The enclosed Recall Service Bulletin #150030 details this procedure.

We have identified and contacted owners of units that may be affected. A copy of that letter is also enclosed. We have instructed affected owners to contact you and schedule an appointment with your facility to have this recall performed. The recall is to be performed at no cost to the retail customer.

What We Are Asking You To Do

Please read and become familiar with the recall repair procedure, including the tools and parts required. You may receive calls from retail owners to schedule an appointment. Please schedule these appointments according to your work load and customer accommodation. Please call for authorization before performing the recall on any unit.

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act provides that each vehicle that is subject to a recall campaign of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the owner has tendered it for repair. Generally, failure to repair within sixty (60) days after the owner's first delivery for repair is assumed to be an unreasonable delay.

All unsold trailers in your possession that are subject to this recall campaign must be held and inspected/repared in accordance with the service procedure of this campaign bulletin before owners can take possession of these trailers. Please service all trailers subject to this recall campaign at no charge to the owners, regardless of age or vehicle ownership, from this time forward.

You should contact owners of trailers recently sold from your vehicle inventory for which you have received the owner notification letter and make arrangements to perform the required service according to the instructions enclosed with this bulletin. At a minimum, mail the owner a copy of the owner notification letter accompanying this bulletin.

What THOR California Will Do

Since this recall is to be performed at no charge to the retail customer, THOR California, Inc. will reimburse you as outlined in the Recall Service Bulletin. If you have questions about this recall, or require further information or assistance, please contact THOR California Customer Relations Department at (888) 697-8467.

It is our goal that working with you we can continue to deliver a high level of customer support to our retail owners. You are an important part of our customer support team, and we appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

THOR California, Inc.

THOR CALIFORNIA**RECALL SERVICE BULLETIN**

THOR CALIFORNIA, INC.
14255 Elsworth Street
Moreno Valley, California 92553

Date: April 30, 2005

Ref. #: 150030

Subject:

**Axle Spring Hanger Enhancement
(2-Axle Units Only)**

Application:

2004/05 Tahoe 36WTB FW
2004/05 Wanderer 367WTB FW
2004/05 Jazz 36WTB FW
built from July 2003 through October 2004

Under certain conditions, extreme side-loading of the axles may cause the axle hangers to become permanently bent. Repeated or extreme bending may also cause permanent bending of the frame rails, and misalignment of the axles and trailer chassis.

The procedure outlined in this bulletin adds reinforcing to the axle hangers and frame rails to improve their strength and minimize the potential of damage.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Floor jack(s), jack stands of sufficient capacity to lift and fully support the trailer.
Welding, grinding equipment
Hand and/or power tools to remove wheels, springs, axles
Fire extinguishing equipment

PARTS/MATERIALS REQUIRED

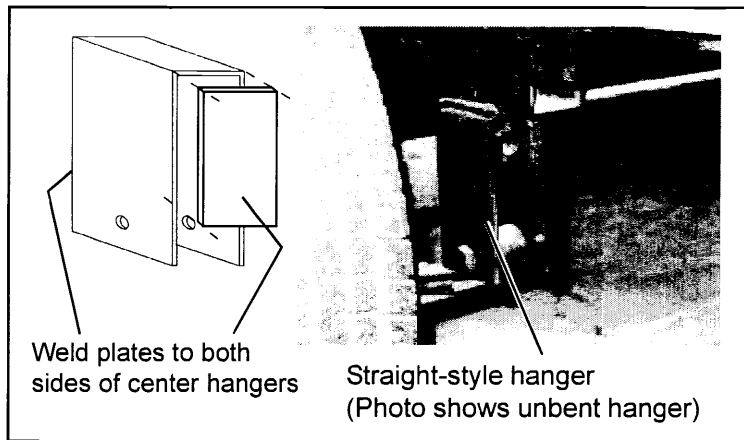
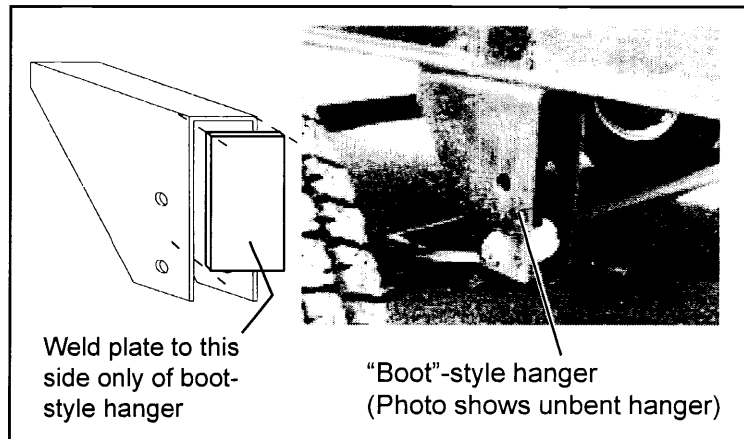
8 - 2³/₄" X 4" X 1/4" steel plates (acquire/fabricate locally)
3 - lengths of 2" X 2" steel tubing (acquire/fabricate locally)
Axle hangers (if required) (order from Parts Department)
1 - Crossmember (order from Parts Department) (required only if center crossmember is missing)
Black chassis paint (as required, acquire locally)

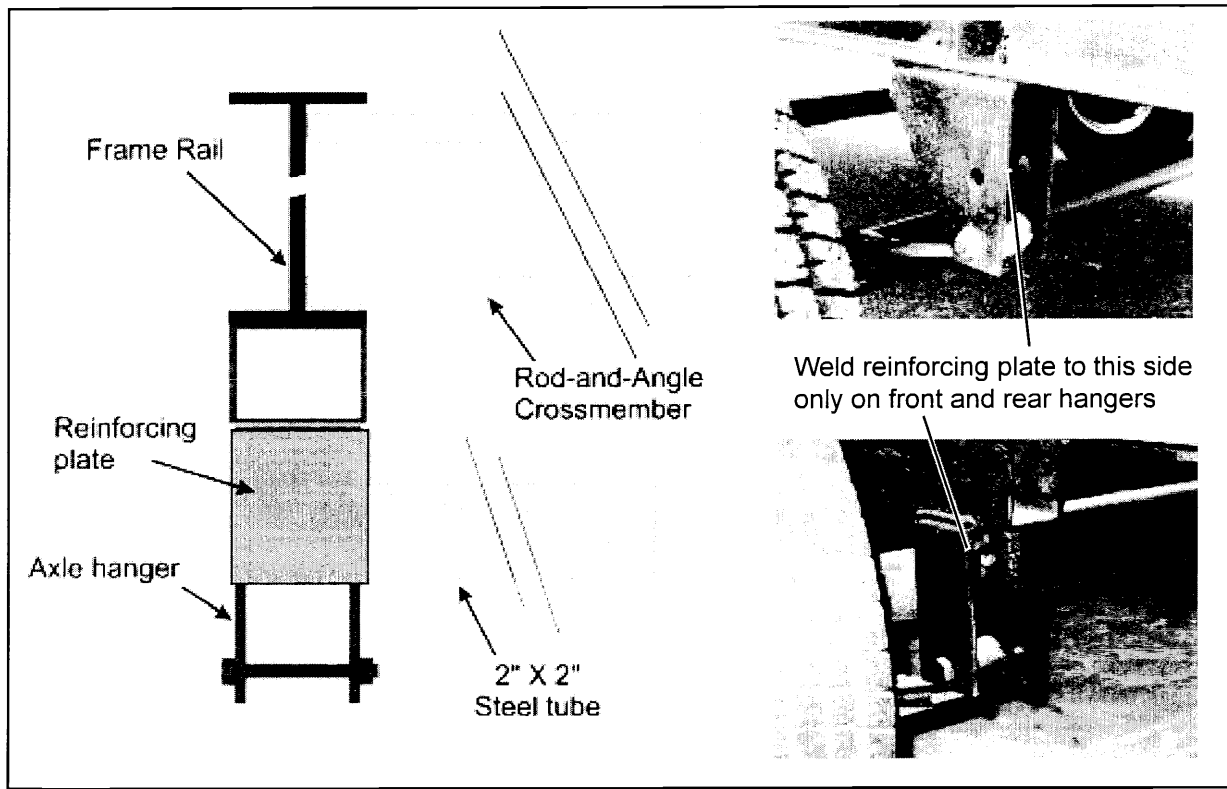
PROCEDURE (See illustrations)**Initial preparation and inspection:**

1. Locate the unit on a solid, level area where it can be jacked up, supported on stands, and if necessary remove the wheels. Park unit in a straight line to minimize axle side-loading and chassis twisting. When lifting the trailer, lift evenly without twisting the frame.
2. Carefully examine each of the six spring hangers to determine if they are straight, vertical and parallel to each other. Both straight and "boot" hangers may be installed, and both types should be checked. If ANY bending is observed, check for any cracking at the weld or along the top of the hanger. Any hanger that shows cracking must be replaced. Hangers without evidence of cracking can be straightened in place and reinforced. See **Repair Procedure**.

Repair Procedure:

1. Disconnect the trailer battery, turn off the LP gas system, protect the fuel tank and pumping system, and underbelly material from sparks and open flames.
2. Before attempting to straighten and reinforce or replace hangers, remove axle hanger bolts and shackles. Support the axles after removal of bolts and shackles. Do not allow the axle to hang unsupported, or to hang by the brake wires.
3. Straighten axle hangers as necessary. Reinforce the front and rear hangers by welding a $2\frac{3}{4}$ " X 4" X $\frac{1}{4}$ " steel plate to the the side of the hanger away from the axle. The plate should overlap the outside of the hanger by approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ " on each side. Reinforce the center hangers by welding $2\frac{3}{4}$ " X 4" X $\frac{1}{4}$ " steel plates to both sides of the hangers.
4. To replace hangers, remove the axles and springs, and torch cut the hangers from the chassis rails. Grind the rail flat and weld new spring hangers in place.
5. After all six hangers have been replaced or straightened and reinforced, weld the three 2" X 2" steel tube cross ties between the axle hangers. Trim the tube sections to fit as required.
6. Check between the main rails for the rod-and-angle crossmember within six inches of the rear hangers. If the crossmember is not installed, weld the new crossmember to the frame rail web as close as possible (within six inches) to the rear spring hangers as shown on the illustration on the last page.
7. After welding all reinforcements, remove any welding slag and residue and paint the new parts and welded areas.
8. Replace axles and wheels.
9. Remove supports and lower trailer to the ground.
10. Reconnect the battery, turn on the LP gas system, and remove any protective materials from fuel tank and pumping system.





Warranty Labor Allowance:

**Prior authorization is required for this repair.
Call for authorization.**

**Flat Rate Code: 150030 Recall 150030 Axle hanger enhancement
5.0 hrs. PAR**

