

05V-309
(6 pages)

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On June 20, 2005, Keystone RV Company decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the 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: June 20, 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 05-055

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.

Keystone RV Company

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

Garett Carolus, Dealer Parts & Service Manager, Keystone RV Company Customer Service

Telephone Number: 866-425-4369 Fax No.: 866-273-1451

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report:

Garett Carolus, Dealer Parts & Service Manager

Signed:

¹Each 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.

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
SECTION

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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: Montana Model Year Involved: 2004 Models: All

Production Dates: Beginning: 5/1/2003 Ending: 4/30/2004

VIN Range: Beginning: 4YDF328284D506030 Ending: 4YDF2952X4D510774

Vehicle Type: Recreational Vehicle Bodystyle: Fifth Wheel

Make: Everest Model Year Involved: 2004 Models: All

Production Dates: Beginning: 5/1/2003 Ending: 4/30/2004

VIN Range: Beginning: 4YDF293254H481499 Ending: 4YDF3432X4H483328

Vehicle Type: Recreational Vehicle Bodystyle: Fifth Wheel

Make: Everest Model Year Involved: 2005 Models: All

Production Dates: Beginning: 5/1/2004 Ending: 12/31/2004

VIN Range: Beginning: 4YDF3432X5H483329 Ending: 4YDF363225H484888

Vehicle Type: Recreational Vehicle Bodystyle: Fifth Wheel

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

Fifth Wheel vehicles manufactured with the 16", 6 bolt aluminum wheel option with 5.5" bolt circle are included in the recall population. Vehicles with the standard steel wheel or 8 bolt aluminum are not included.

**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:
35.2%**

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>
Montana	2004	1677
Everest	2004	550
Everest	2005	441

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 2668

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:

The recall population was selected by analyzing data from wheel separation incidents for the 2000 thru 2005 model year Keystone RV production. Fifth Wheel vehicles produced from May 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004 with the 16", 6-bolt aluminum wheel option with 5.5" bolt circle exhibited 11 wheel separations, or .41% of those vehicles. Fifth Wheel vehicles produced with 8-bolt aluminum wheel option exhibited a wheel separation rate of .17%. The data and technical details of this recall have been reviewed extensively with Tom Bowman, ODI NHTSA. As of January 1, 2005, the production process to install wheels was changed.

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.

Foreign material may be present in the "clamp joint" (mating surface between the wheel & hub face) which can hinder the success of the lug nuts maintaining torque if the lug nuts are not installed with the proper torque during manufacture, re-torqued during the initial "seating in" period and/or there is a failure to follow the maintenance procedures for wheel torque outlined in the Owners Manual.

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

Foreign material on the hub face or the wheel clamp ring surface may cause the lug nuts to loose torque on 16", 6 bolt aluminum wheels with 5.5" bolt circle during the initial settling-in period or after removal for service as the foreign material is squeezed out of the clamp ring joint. If the lug nuts do not have sufficient torque, the forces from the road surfaces will not be transferred directly from the wheel to the hub due to a loss of wheel clamp ring pressure. This force is then transferred through the wheel studs which will cause them to snap off. The vehicles included in the recall may not have had the proper wheel lug nut torque applied to the aluminum wheels before leaving the assembly plant, during the initial "seating in" period, as part of the required periodic maintenance outlined in the Owners Manual, or after removal of a wheel for service.

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

The wheel could separate from the vehicle.

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

The wheel may wobble and cause a vibration if the wheel is loose. Secondly, if the lugs are checked with a torque wrench, they will exhibit less than 90 ft-lbs of torque.

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 11 reports (and subsequent warranty claims) of wheel separations for the vehicles involved in the recall population. There have been no accidents, injuries or deaths reported.

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.

NA

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.

Keystone Service Advisory 05-055 details the procedure to remove the wheels, clean any paint or other foreign material from the hub and wheel mating surface, apply proper torque to the wheels, educate & demonstrate to the consumer proper wheel torque procedures and maintenance. Once the wheel and hub mating surfaces have been cleaned of paint and other foreign material, a condition that can result in a loss of torque has been eliminated. In addition, proper torque of the wheels at the conclusion of the repair procedure and the consumer following the required maintenance as outlined in the Owners Manual will eliminate the potential for wheel separations.

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

All paint and foreign material will have been removed from the wheel and hub mating surface. The lug nuts will have the proper torque applied once the recall is complete. In addition, the servicing dealer will have educated the consumer concerning the proper methods and maintenance requirements of lug nut torque. Keystone RV is also providing a DVD to the consumer of the recalled vehicles demonstrating detailed torque procedures & requirements.

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.

After January 1, 2005, all production units have the paint removed from the hub and wheel mating surface and processes for installation refined.

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.

The dealer and retail letter as well as the DVD will be sent out upon completion of the DVD. We estimate completion of the DVD in 4-6 weeks.

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.