

Carriage

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Date: 09/09/05

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

05V-400
(7 Pages)

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Recall Campaign – Chromium Steel Wheels

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please find enclosed one original and one copy of the Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report as prepared by Carriage, Inc. regarding the recall of chromium plated welded steel wheels that were used in vehicles manufactured by Carriage, Inc. Also enclosed is a copy of the Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report received by Carriage, Inc. from Tredit Tire & Wheel Company. This mailing follows the email sent to your office on 09/09/05 that included the Carriage Part 573 as an attachment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Colglazier
Director of Information Systems
Carriage, Inc.
574-642-3622 Ext 612

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

On August 30, 2005 Carriage Incorporated ("The Company" or "Carriage") was notified by Tredit Tire and Wheel Company of a potential defect which relates to motor vehicle safety in the motor vehicles listed below. In accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Carriage is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Date this report was prepared: **9/9/05**

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

Not applicable

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.

Carriage Incorporated

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

Mark Colglazier
Director of M.I.S.

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Mark Colglazier
Director of M.I.S.

Signed:



9/9/2005

Date

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.

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(s) **Carriage** Model Years Involved: **2005**

Model(s): **2005 Cameo Fifth Wheels**

Production Dates: Beginning: **March 2005** Ending: **July 2005**

VIN Range: Beginning: **16F62E2R751A06717** Ending: **16F62E4P751A6858**

Vehicle Type: **RECREATIONAL VEHICLE** Body style: **Fifth Wheel**

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

The affected chrome wheels are installed in only these certain models of Fifth Wheels.

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.

Carriage offered the affected chrome steel wheels in all of the identified models, but can not ascertain which specific vehicles in the population may actually contain the defective chrome steel wheels, so we are basing the population on the assumption that they may all contain defective chrome steel wheels.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Number of Vehicles Model	Year	Potentially Involved
Cameo	2005	86

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

**Eighty-Six (86) Vehicles Manufactured (344 Wheels).
Thirteen (13) Vehicles Through Parts Department (19 Wheels).**

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

Carriage cannot determine which specific affected models actually contain the defective wheel so we are basing the population on the assumption that they may all contain the defective wheel.

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 population was based on the company's production records for models known to have offered the affected wheel during the period identified to Carriage for which we purchased the defective wheel from our 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.

Tredit indicates: Under certain circumstances, the wheels may break while in use. Tom Bowman of NHTSA ODI has been investigating this issue for 5th wheel trailer applications.

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

Tredit indicates: Poor weld quality and insufficient press fit between the rim and the disc.

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

Tredit indicates: The center of the wheel could separate from the rim.

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

Tredit indicates: The wheel may wobble and cause a momentary vibration or the mounted tire on the wheel could lose air causing the tire to go flat.

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

Carriage purchased the affected wheels from:

**Tredit Tire and Wheel Company
57941 Charlotte Avenue
Elkhart, Indiana 46517**

Tredit indicates: Tredit purchased the wheels from J.C. Auto Corporation (aka JCA), 1820 South 341st Place, Federal Way, Washington 98003. JCA may be aware of other sub-suppliers.

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

Tredit indicates: Hun Choe, President

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

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.

April 25, 2005: Carriage received NHTSA (ODI) Query re Wheel Cracking and Breaking from Tom Bowman of ODI.

April 26, 2005: Carriage sends requested query information to ODI and begins reporting of incidents as requested per Query.

June 22, 2005: Carriage received PE05-030 Information Request to further investigate wheel cracking and breaking in model year 2003 – 2005 Cameo and 2003 Carri-lite towable Recreational Vehicles.

August 17, 2005: Carriage sends completed Information Request PE05-030 to ODI.

August 22, 2005: Carriage receives results of metallurgical analysis of certain wheel assemblies conducted by Quality Associates Metallurgical Service for Tredit Tire.

August 30, 2005: Carriage receives notice that Tredit Tire has submitted a Part 573 to NHTSA identifying a problem with certain 16”chrome steel wheels.

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.

Not applicable

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.

Tredit has indicated that they intend to replace the subject wheels with wheels of sufficient weld quality and press fit interference. These replacements will be provided to all customers at no charge.

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

Tredit has indicated that the replacement wheels will be of sufficient weld quality and press fit interference.

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.

Carriage discontinued use of affected wheels in production at model year changeover (June, 2005). On June 10th, 2005 the last shipment of subject wheels was received from Tredit for remaining 2005 model year vehicles to be produced. All 2006 model year vehicles are equipped with a different wheel.

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.

Once Carriage has been notified of the recall campaign number, notification of our dealers will begin within twenty-one (21) days. Owner notification will begin ten (10) days later, and will be completed within 30 days.

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.

Carriage will submit draft copy of all notification documents to your office for review prior to mailing. Please acknowledge receipt of this defect information report and provide the undersigned with the recall number that will be assigned by NHTSA to this campaign.

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