

05V-424
(7 pages)

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

On September 13, 2005, Keystone RV decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicle equipment listed below purchased from a supplier, 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: September 22, 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 05-060
Tredit Tire & Wheel Company was issued NHTSA Recall # 05E-051

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

17400 Hackberry Dr.

Goshen, IN 46526

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

Christina Chapman, Warranty Manager

Signed:

RECEIVED
NVS-215
2005 SEP 23 A 11:03
OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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: Mountaineer **Model Years Involved:** 2005-2006 **Models:** All

Production Dates: **Beginning:** 2/16/05 **Ending:** 8/31/05

Mountaineer VIN Range Beginning 4YDF328255F706028 **Ending:** 4YDT326236F707430

Vehicle Type: Recreational Vehicle **Bodystyle:** Fifth Wheel and Travel Trailer

Make: Cougar **Model Years Involved:** 2005-2006 **Models:** 295EFS, 296EFS

Production Dates: **Beginning:** 2/16/05 **Ending:** 9/14/05

Cougar VIN Range: Beginning: 4YDF296206K064082 **Ending:** 4YDT243236K065592

Vehicle Type: Recreational Vehicle **Bodystyle:** Fifth Wheel

Make: Sprinter **Model Years Involved:** 2005-2006 **Models:** 293SLS, 339TSLS

Production Dates: **Beginning:** 2/16/05 **Ending:** 9/1/05

Sprinter VIN Range: Beginning: 4YDF293275A222037 **Ending:** 4YDF293226A224800

Vehicle Type: Recreational Vehicle **Bodystyle:** Fifth Wheel

Make: Tail-Gator **Model Years Involved:** 2005-2006 **Models:** All

Production Dates: **Beginning:** 3/11/05 **Ending:** 6/24/05

Tail-Gator VIN Range: Beginning: 4YDT230255K852749 **Ending:** 4YDT230226K853987

Vehicle Type: Recreational Vehicle **Bodystyle:** Travel Trailer

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

16" chromium plated welded wheels, either 6 lug or 8 lug, that contain the rim stamp of "JG" or "HW". KRV part numbers 140783, 144664, 186245, 103122, 151963 & 186245

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. TBD

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
Cougar	2005	5
Cougar	2006	11
Mountaineer	2005	368
Mountaineer	2006	248
Sprinter	2005	23
Sprinter	2006	18
Tail-Gator	2005	109
Tail-Gator	2006	52

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 834

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:

The recall population was determined by the Tredit Tire & Wheel based on reports from their supplier JCA; that JCA used only two China manufacturing plants, Ningbo Wheel and Jing Gu Wheel during the latter part of 2004 through early 2005. JCA indicated that only a certain number of 16" chromium plated welded wheels were shipped from the China plants to Tredit Tire & Wheel. Upon information and belief, Tredit Tire & Wheel returned a portion of the shipment. The remaining wheels that were received from the China manufacturing plants constitute the recall population for Tredit Tire & Wheel. Keystone RV determined the potentially affected units based on purchase orders shipped from Tredit Tire & Wheel to specific plants using this type of wheel. Any units produced after receipts of tires from Tredit Tire & Wheel that show record of using the affected tire (determined by the KRV part number and the chrome wheel option) were included in the recall population.

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.

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.

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

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

The center of the wheel could separate from the rim.

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

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.

Tredit Tire & Wheel---57941 Charlotte Ave, Elkhart, IN 46516.

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

Tim Ball – GM, Tredit Tire & Wheel Company

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.

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.

March, 2005 through July, 2005: There have been reports, and subsequent warranty claims of wheel separations for 5th wheel trailer applications. There have been no accidents, injuries or deaths reported.

July 1, 2005: Tredit Tire & Wheel stops shipment of all 16" chromium plated welded wheel assemblies pending resolution of this issue.

July, 2005: Tredit Tire & Wheel submitted wheel samples to a metallurgical laboratory for analysis.

August 8, 2005: The results of the metallurgical analysis were received.

August 16, 2005: Tredit Tire & Wheel met with representatives of JCA.

September 22, 2005: KRV determined recall population VIN ranges based on Tredit Tire & Wheel shipment receipt dates and KRV part number usage dates.

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.

Replacement of the subject wheels with wheels of sufficient weld quality and press fit interference.

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

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.

It has been represented by JCA that it no longer uses the China manufacturing plants for the 16" chromium plated welded wheel assemblies. Keystone RV has discontinued use of the specified Tredit Tires & Wheel parts.

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.

Tredit Tire & Wheel has provided the test results to the vehicle or original equipment (OE) manufacturers. Tredit Tire & Wheel has advised the OE manufacturers or dealers by correspondence that the subject wheels should be recalled. Tredit Tire & Wheel will provide the replacement wheels. The notification date is TBD.

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.