

05V-475
(9 pages)

RECEIVED
NVS-215

October 7, 2005

2005 OCT 13 P 1:54

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.
400 - 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Winnebago Industries, Inc. submits the following report pursuant to Part 573 of the NHTSA regulations. The numbered paragraphs below correspond to those found at Part 573.6(c).

1. Winnebago Industries, Inc.
605 W. Crystal Lake Road
Forest City, IA 50436
2. The motor vehicles (all built on Ford[®] chassis) potentially containing the defect are on certain 2004 Winnebago Minnie[®] models built after April 11, 2004; 2004 Itasca Spirit[®] models built after April 11, 2004; 2005 Winnebago Minnie[®], Minnie Winnie[®], and Aspect[®] models; 2005 Itasca Spirit, Sundancer[®], and Cambria[®] models; 2006 Winnebago Outlook[™], Minnie Winnie, and Aspect models built prior to July 18, 2005; 2006 Itasca Spirit, Sundancer, and Cambria models built prior to July 18, 2005.

These motor homes were manufactured April 12, 2004 through July 17, 2005. The vehicles were identified using production records showing models and VINs.
3. The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is 3,613.
4. It is estimated that 100 percent of the vehicles contain the defect.
5. Winnebago Industries, Inc. has decided that a safety defect exists where the fasteners holding the fuel tank mounting straps may not have been properly tightened, allowing the possibility for the fuel tank to loosen and fall, which has the potential to ignite, resulting in personal injury, and/or vehicle and property damage.
6. Winnebago Industries, Inc. discovered this defect as a result of our own monitoring of field support data by our Customer Service Department.
7. N/A.
8. Winnebago Industries, Inc. will remedy this defective situation by properly tightening the fuel tank mounting fasteners. Winnebago Industries[®] estimates the dealer letter will be mailed on or about October 14, 2005. The owner letter will be mailed two weeks later.
9. Enclosed is a copy of the dealer letter in draft form.

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
October 7, 2005
Page Two

10. Enclosed is a copy of the owner letter in draft form.

11. The recall documents will carry the Winnebago Industries, Inc. Number 97.

Should you have questions regarding this information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald W. Post', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald W. Post
Product Compliance Manager

RP103/2

Enclosure

c: Ray Beebe
Steve Evenson
Marv Nieman
Donna Bindel
Dale Jordal

**RE: BODY SERIAL
CHASSIS SERIAL**

Dear Owner:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Our records indicate that you have purchased a vehicle with the serial number which appears above. If you have paid to have this defect corrected, you may be eligible for reimbursement. To be eligible, you must meet the requirements described in the enclosed Reimbursement Plan Notice.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on certain 2004 - 2006 model year Winnebago® and Itasca® (Models: Minnie®, Minnie Winnie®, Aspect®, Outlook™, Spirit®, Sundancer®, Cambria®). These motor homes are built on Ford® chassis and were manufactured April 12, 2004 through July 17, 2005. The fasteners holding the fuel tank mounting straps may not have been properly tightened allowing the possibility for the fuel tank to fall, which has the possibility to ignite, resulting in personal injury and/or vehicle and property damage.

WHAT WE WILL DO

Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealers will inspect and tighten the fasteners to the fuel tank straps at no charge to you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Please contact your Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealer immediately to arrange for an appointment. The labor time necessary to perform this correction will be less than one hour. Please allow additional time for the dealer to process your vehicle.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealers are best equipped to obtain parts and provide service to ensure your vehicle is corrected as promptly as possible. HOWEVER, if you take your vehicle to the dealer on the agreed date and he does not service this condition on that date or within five days, we recommend you contact Winnebago Industries, Inc., Attn.: Owner Relations Representative (641-585-6939). If you are still unable to obtain such installation without charge to you and within a reasonable time, you may contact the Administrator, N.H.T.S.A., Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

Presentation of this letter to the service center will assist in making the necessary correction to your vehicle in the shortest possible time. If you have sold or traded your vehicle, please let us know by completing the postage-paid owner reply card and returning it to us.

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

We are sorry to cause you this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products. This letter does not constitute an acknowledgment of legal liability.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

RP103/6

Enclosure

REIMBURSEMENT PLAN NOTICE

Dear Owner:

If you have already paid to have this defect or noncompliance corrected (Winnebago Industries® Recall No. 97), you may be eligible for reimbursement under this plan.

TO BE ELIGIBLE, YOU MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. You own or have owned one of the following built on a Ford® chassis:
 - 2004 Winnebago Minnie® models built after April 11, 2004;
 - 2004 Itasca Spirit® models built after April 11, 2004;
 - 2005 Winnebago Minnie®, Minnie Winnie®, and Aspect® models;
 - 2005 Itasca Spirit®, Sundancer®, and Cambria® models;
 - 2006 Winnebago Outlook™, Minnie Winnie®, and Aspect® models built prior to July 18, 2005;
 - 2006 Itasca Spirit®, Sundancer®, and Cambria® models built prior to July 18, 2005.
2. You have paid to tighten the fuel tank mounting strap fasteners.
3. The repair was performed on or prior to October 28, 2005.
4. You have the original repair order or invoice showing:
 - ♦ Vehicle model and year or VIN.
 - ♦ Repair date.
 - ♦ Itemized labor charges including description of the fuel tank mounting strap fasteners replacement.
 - ♦ Your name and address at the time of repair.
 - ♦ Name and address of repair shop.

TO REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT:

1. Complete the reimbursement application (see reverse side).
2. Mail this application along with the original copy of the repair order or invoice to:

Attention: Owner Relations
Winnebago Industries, Inc.
605 West Crystal Lake Road
P.O. Box 152
Forest City, IA 50436

3. Retain copies of repair order or invoice for your records.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION

**REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION
WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES, INC.**

RECALL CAMPAIGN NO. 97

Please Print All Information:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____
(If we need additional information)

TO: Winnebago Industries, Inc. Dealers

SUBJECT: Campaign #97 – Fuel Tank Strap Fastener

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, as amended, provides that each vehicle which 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. A failure to adequately repair within 60 days after tender of a vehicle is prima facie evidence of failure to repair within a reasonable time.

If the condition is not adequately repaired within a reasonable time, the owners may be entitled to an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle at no charge or to a refund of the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for depreciation.

To avoid having to provide these burdensome solutions, every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each owner and to repair their vehicle as soon as possible. As you will see in reading the enclosed copy of the letter which is being sent to owners, the owners are being instructed to contact Winnebago Industries, Inc. if you do not remedy the condition within five days of the mutually agreed upon service date. If the condition is not remedied within a reasonable time, they are instructed on how to contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on certain 2004 - 2006 model year Winnebago® and Itasca® (Models: Minnie®, Minnie Winnie®, Aspect®, Outlook™, Spirit®, Sundancer®, Cambria®). These motor homes are built on Ford® chassis and were manufactured April 12, 2004 through July 17, 2005. The fasteners holding the fuel tank mounting straps may not have been properly tightened allowing the possibility for the fuel tank to fall, which has the possibility to ignite, resulting in personal injury and/or vehicle and property damage.

OWNER NOTIFICATION

Owners will be notified of this campaign on their vehicles by Winnebago Industries, Inc. For all units in your inventory, the notification will be mailed to you. **DO NOT DELIVER TO A CUSTOMER ANY SUBJECT UNIT UNTIL CORRECTIVE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.** Enclosed is a list of vehicles shipped to you.

DEALER CAMPAIGN RESPONSIBILITY

Dealers are to service all vehicles subject to this campaign at no charge to owners regardless of mileage, age of vehicle, or ownership from this time forward.

Whenever a vehicle subject to this campaign is taken into new or used vehicle inventory, or it is in your dealership for service in the future, you should take the steps necessary to be sure the campaign correction has been made before reselling or releasing the vehicle. Owners of vehicles recently sold from your new vehicle inventory are to be contacted by the dealer, and arrangements made to make the required correction according to instructions contained in this campaign.

INSTRUCTION TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN #97

Affected Models:

The motor vehicles (all built on Ford® chassis) potentially containing the defect are on certain 2004 Winnebago Minnie® models built after April 11, 2004; 2004 Itasca Spirit® models built after April 11, 2004; 2005 Winnebago Minnie®, Minnie Winnie®, and Aspect® models; 2005 Itasca Spirit, Sundancer®, and Cambria® models; 2006 Winnebago Outlook™, Minnie Winnie, and Aspect models built prior to July 18, 2005; 2006 Itasca Spirit, Sundancer, and Cambria models built prior to July 18, 2005.

These motor homes were manufactured April 12, 2004 through July 17, 2005.

Repair Procedure:

Refer to instruction sheet for inspection and tightening of the fuel tank mounting fasteners.

Parts Information:

Parts should not be required in the normal procedure for this recall. However, if your inspection reveals any damaged fastener, contact the Winnebago Industries Recall Administrator toll free at 800-628-7692. An original equipment replacement part will be sent to you at no charge.

REIMBURSEMENT

When the service has been completed, fill out your repair order that has the labor amount and labor operation number listed below. The repair order must be properly signed by both dealer and owner before it is submitted to Winnebago Industries.

	OPERATION NUMBER	TIME ALLOWANCE
INSPECT/TIGHTEN FUEL TANK STRAP FASTENERS	<u>24970101</u>	<u>.5 hr.</u>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

RP103/5

Enclosures



Instructions to Perform Campaign 97 Fuel Tank Strap Fastener

Tools Required:

- Torque Wrench
- 6" Extension
- 15mm Deep Socket
- 21mm Deep Socket

Procedure:

NOTE: This procedure does not require a hoist. A mechanic's creeper can be used effectively with the vehicle on the ground for faster service.

1. Beneath the rear of the vehicle, locate the appropriate fuel tank strap mounting bolts and nuts as shown in the figures at right.
2. See close-up photos on page 2 to identify specific bolts and nuts included in this procedure.
3. Tighten each affected bolt or nut to the specified torque.

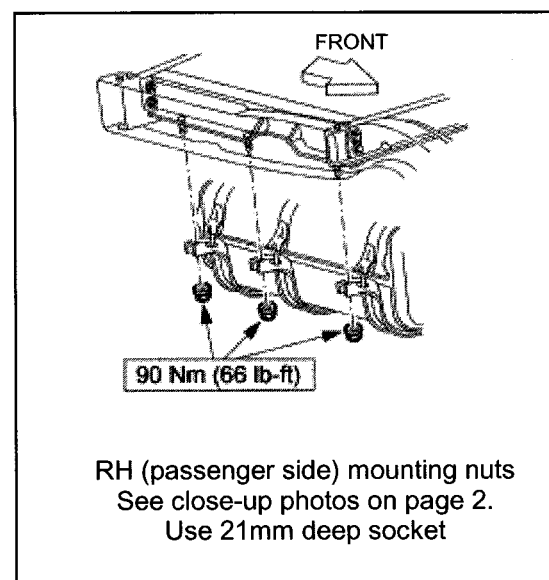
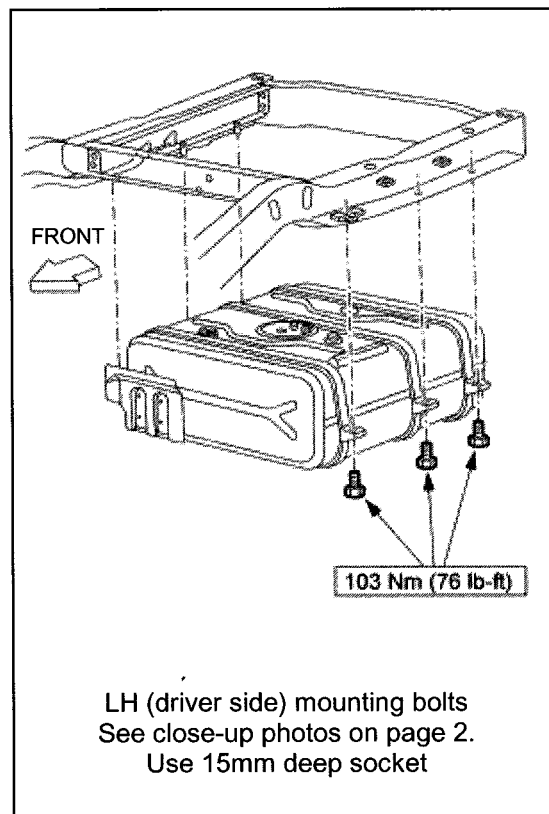


Photo 1
LH Side Front
Fuel Tank Strap Mounting Bolts
Use 15mm deep socket
Torque 76 ft/lb



Photo2
LH Side Mid and Rear
Fuel Tank Strap Mounting Bolts
Use 15mm deep socket
Torque 76 ft/lb

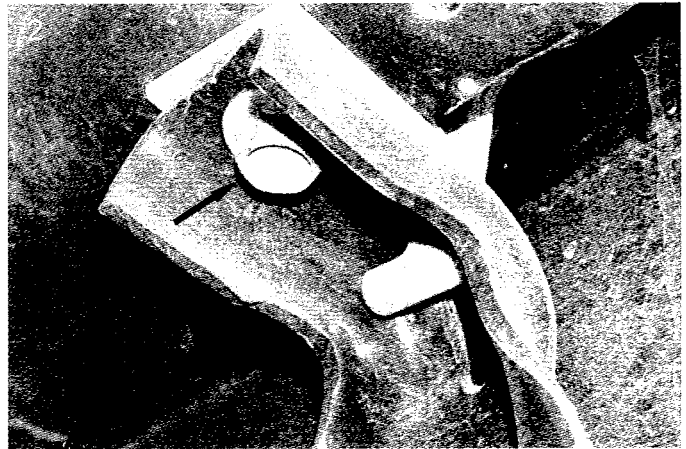


Photo 3
RH Side
Fuel Tank Strap Mounting Nuts
Use 21mm deep socket
Torque 66 ft/lb

