

October 26, 2005

RECEIVED
10-27-05

NOV 1 2005

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

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

05V-496
(8 pages)

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 potentially containing the defect are on certain 2006 model year Winnebago® and Itasca® (Models: Journey, Meridian, Tour, Ellipse) motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured August 24, 2005 through October 31, 2005. The vehicles were identified using production records showing models and VINs.
3. The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is: 152.
4. It is estimated that 100 percent of the vehicles contain the defect.
5. Winnebago Industries, Inc. has decided that a safety defect exists at the cinch bolt where steering column connects to the intermediate shaft. The cinch bolt was improperly tightened which could result in the possibility of bolt threads being stripped, conceivably not providing a tight joint. If the joint is loose, the intermediate shaft has the potential to slip off the spline shaft of the steering column causing loss of steering control that could result in personal injury and/or vehicle and property damage.
6. Winnebago Industries, Inc. discovered this defect during our manufacturing process when aligning the steering wheel.
7. N/A.
8. Winnebago Industries, Inc. will remedy this defective by replacing and correctly installing a new cinch bolt and nut. Winnebago Industries® estimates the dealer letter will be mailed on or about November 4, 2005. The owner letter will be mailed two weeks later.
9. Enclosed is a copy of the dealer letter in draft form.

Recall98/1

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director

October 31, 2005

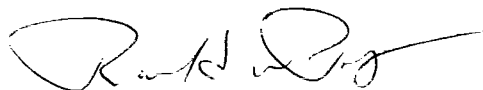
Page Two

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

11. The recall documents will carry the Winnebago Industries, Inc. Number 98.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald W. Post". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ronald W. Post
Product Compliance Manager

Recall98/2

Enclosure

c: Ray Beebe
Steve Evenson
Marv Nieman
Donna Bindel

TO: Winnebago Industries, Inc. Dealers

SUBJECT: Campaign # 98 – Steering Column Cinch Bolt

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 2006 model year Winnebago[®] and Itasca[®] (Models: Journey, Meridian, Tour, Ellipse) motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured August 24, 2005 through October 31, 2005.

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has decided that a safety defect exists at the cinch bolt where steering column connects to the intermediate shaft. The cinch bolt was improperly tightened which could result in the possibility of bolt threads being stripped, conceivably not providing a tight joint. If the joint is loose, the intermediate shaft has the potential to slip off the spline shaft of the steering column causing loss of steering control that could result 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 # 98

Affected Models:

Certain 2006 model year Winnebago® and Itasca® models: Journey, Meridian, Tour, and Ellipse built August 24, 2005 through October, 31, 2005

Repair Procedure:

Refer to instruction sheet for replacement of cinch bolt and nut.

Parts Information:

Parts Kit from Winnebago Industries® have already been sent to you for the affected vehicles you have. If you need an additional Parts Kit please call Service Administration/Technical Assistance at 866-653-4329.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Part Description</u>
1	Instruction Sheet
1	Cinch Bolt
1	Nut

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
REPLACEMENT OF CINCH BOLT	24980101	.5 hr.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Winnebago Industries, Inc.
Forest City, Iowa 50436

Recall98/5

Enclosures

**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 2006 model year Winnebago® and Itasca® (Models: Journey, Meridian, Tour, Ellipse) motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured August 24, 2005 through October 31, 2005. Winnebago Industries, Inc. has decided that a safety defect exists at the cinch bolt where steering column connects to the intermediate shaft. The cinch bolt was improperly tightened which could result in the possibility of bolt threads being stripped, conceivably not providing a tight joint. If the joint is loose, the intermediate shaft has the potential to slip off the spline shaft of the steering column causing loss of steering control that could result in personal injury and/or vehicle and property damage.

WHAT WE WILL DO

Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealers will replace the cinch bolt and nut at no charge to you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Please contact your Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealer immediately to arrange for an appointment. Please allow sufficient time for your dealer to obtain the kit for this recall. The labor time necessary to perform this correction will be approximately one hour. Please allow 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

Recall98/6

Enclosure

REIMBURSEMENT PLAN NOTICE

Dear Owner:

If you have already paid to have this defect or noncompliance corrected (Winnebago Industries® Recall No. 98), 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 a Winnebago® or an Itasca® (Models: (Journey, Meridian, Tour, Ellipse) motor home built between August 24, 2005 through October 31, 2005.
2. You have paid to correct the steering column and intermediate shaft joint.
3. The repair was performed on or prior to November 30, 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 steering column work.
 - ◆ 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

Recall98/7



INSTRUCTIONS TO PERFORM CAMPAIGN 98

Intermediate Steering Shaft Cinch Bolt Replacement

Models Affected:

Limited number of 2006 Winnebago Journey, Winnebago Tour, Itasca Meridian and Itasca Horizon models
See recall notice.

Tools Required:

- Torque Wrench
- Socket – 9/16"
- Box/Open End Wrench – 9/16"

Parts (supplied by Winnebago Industries)

- 1 Bolt
- 1 Nut

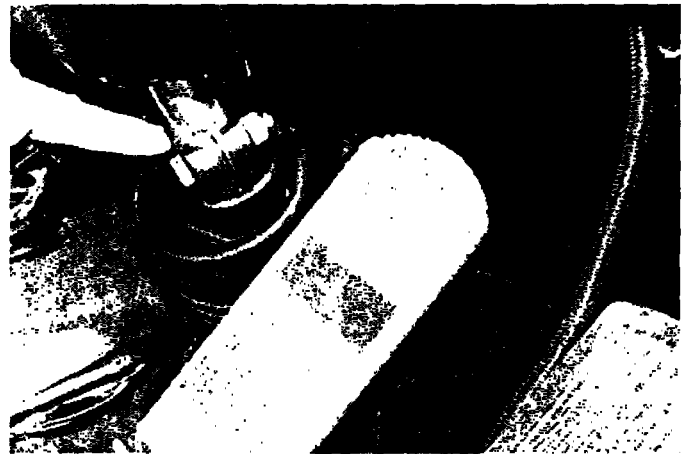
If you need additional parts or assistance, call one of these Winnebago Industries contacts (Dealerships Only)

- Service Administration/Technical Assistance 866-653-4329
- Warranty 800-628-7692

Procedure:

The basic procedure involves replacing the intermediate steering shaft cinch bolt.

1. Slide the protective boot downward to expose the lower intermediate steering shaft connection and cinch bolt as shown.
2. Remove the existing bolt without disconnecting shafts or disturbing shaft spline alignment.
3. Be sure the shaft is engaged into the connecting socket completely as shown, then install new bolt and nut supplied.
4. Torque to 30-35 ft. lbs.
5. Slide the boot up to cover the bolt and shaft.



**REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION
WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES, INC.**

RECALL CAMPAIGN NO. 98

Please Print All Information:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

(If we need additional information)