



Forest River, Inc.

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October 24, 2005

2005 NOV 29 P 3:35
RECEIVED BY
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Part 573 Report

05V-547
(9 pages)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed are the Part 574 Defect and Noncompliance Report for Lexington/Lexington GT Model LEC283TSF and LEC283GTSF Class B Motor Homes. Please file in your usual manner.

Sincerely,

William G. Conway Jr.
Forest River, Inc.
574-534-6913
Fax: 574-534-5011
Email: bconway@forestriverinc.com

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report⁽¹⁾

On Oct. 18, 2005, Forest River Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. _____) exists in the motor 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: Oct. 24, 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if 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.

Forest River, Inc. Sunseeker/Lcxington Division

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

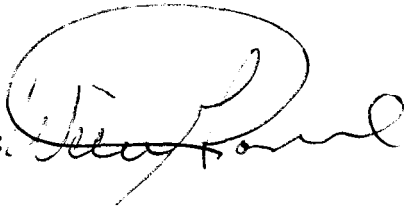
William G. Conway Jr.

Telephone Number: 574-534-6913 Fax No.: 574-534-5011

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

William G. Conway Jr.

Engineering _____

Signed: 

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:

Lexington Model LEC283TSF and LEC283GTSF Class B Motor Home.

Make(s): Lexington, Lexington GT **Model Years Involved:** 2006 **Model(s):**
LEC283TSF LEC283GTSF

Production Dates: Beginning: Ending:

VIN Range: Beginning: _LGF2328_____ Ending:
LGF2949_____

Vehicle Type: Bodystyle: Class B Motor Home

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: Floor Plan, the difference between the Lexington and Lexington GT is option packaging and available colors.

Make(s): Model Years Involved: Model(s):

Production Dates: Beginning: Ending:

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: Bodystyle:

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

Make(s): Model Years Involved: Model(s):

Production Dates: Beginning: Ending:

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: Bodystyle:

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

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.

Approximately 11%

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance. 199 units

Number of Vehicles

Model Year Potentially Involved

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: _____

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

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:

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.

There is a steel schedule 40 L.P. Gas manifold that passes through a 14ga x 1-1/2 sq. steel tube. This manifold is located on the passenger side of the vehicle above the rear curbside suspension system.

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

If the axles bottom out against the rubber suspension snubbers it is possible that the "U" bolts that hold the springs to the rear axle can penetrate the 14ga x 1-1/2 sq. steel tube and come in contact with the schedule 40 steel L.P. manifold.

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

There is a possibility that the L.P. Gas Manifolds Steel Schedule 40 tube may be crushed. This may cause a crack in the tube and L.P. Gas may leak causing a fire.

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

If the Motor Home bottoms out there should be an inspection of the square steel tube on the curb (passenger) side above the "U" bolts on the rear suspension. There may be an

indication that there has been a puncture or crushing of the tube.

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

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

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.

The defect was discovered on a customer's unit that was at Forest River's Service center in Elkhart, IN. for unrelated warranty work. It was discovered by one of the technicians.

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.

Visual inspection of other units that had not been shipped to dealers indicated that there was a potential for the defect.

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.

Forest River has created a new manifold that will be placed and supported inside the chassis rail away from the suspension system entirely.

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

The L.P. Manifold will be installed so that it is inside and supported by the chassis rail.

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.

The recall condition is identical to the production correction.

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.

Forest River has sent out a warning to the dealers and retail customers not to use their L.P. Gas systems in these models until they are repaired.

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.

1. 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.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: *This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent*

amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.