



December 16, 2005

RECEIVED  
DEC 23 2005  
7:55 DEC 23 P 1:57  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
05V-573  
(8 pages)

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 potentially containing the defect are on certain 2006 model year Winnebago<sup>®</sup> (Models: Outlook<sup>™</sup>, Minnie Winnie<sup>®</sup>, View<sup>®</sup>, Aspect<sup>®</sup>, Sightseer<sup>®</sup>, Voyage<sup>™</sup>, Journey<sup>®</sup>, Tour<sup>™</sup>, Vectra<sup>®</sup>) and Itasca<sup>®</sup> (Models: Spirit<sup>®</sup>, Sundancer<sup>®</sup>, Navion<sup>®</sup>, Cambria<sup>®</sup>, Sunova<sup>®</sup>, Sunrise<sup>®</sup>, Meridian<sup>®</sup>, Ellipse<sup>™</sup>, Horizon<sup>®</sup>) motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured November 14, 2005 through December 8, 2005. The vehicles were identified using production records showing models and VINs.
3. The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is 649 (193 vehicles were shipped and require inspection and/or repair; 456 vehicles were repaired prior to shipment).
4. It is estimated that 100 percent of the vehicles contain the defect.
5. Winnebago Industries, Inc. has decided that a safety defect exists in certain Kwikkee<sup>®</sup> brand entrance steps. The affected steps may have control units which could develop an electrical short allowing for the potential of the plastic case to ignite, possibly resulting in personal injury and/or vehicle and property damage.
6. Winnebago Industries, Inc. discovered this defect as a result of step control unit failures within our manufacturing facility.
7. N/A.
8. Winnebago Industries, Inc. will remedy this defective situation by inspecting the steps. Steps found to have a control unit with a date code ending in an "a" are known to be affected. Winnebago Industries<sup>®</sup> will replace those affected control units with a new control unit. Winnebago Industries estimates the dealer letter will be mailed on or about December 23, 2005. The owner letter will be mailed two weeks later.
9. Enclosed is a copy of the dealer letter in draft form.

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

11. The recall documents will carry the Winnebago Industries, Inc. Number 100.

As required by Sec. 573.13 of TITLE 49, attached is the document, REIMBURSEMENT PLAN. These forms will be provided any owner upon request.

Winnebago Industries became aware of the recall on December 12, 2005.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. W. Post', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald W. Post  
Product Compliance Manager

Enclosure

RP106/2

**TO: Winnebago Industries, Inc. Dealers**

**SUBJECT: Campaign #100 – Kwikkee® Step Control Unit**

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 exists on certain vehicles equipped with the Kwikkee brand electric step. The steps may have been manufactured with defective step control units. The defective control units could develop an electrical short allowing for the potential of the plastic case to ignite, possibly 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 #100**

### **Affected Models:**

The motor vehicles potentially containing the defect are on certain 2006 model year Winnebago<sup>®</sup> (Models: Outlook<sup>™</sup>, Minnie Winnie<sup>®</sup>, View<sup>®</sup>, Aspect<sup>®</sup>, Sightseer<sup>®</sup>, Voyage<sup>™</sup>, Journey<sup>®</sup>, Tour<sup>™</sup>, Vectra<sup>®</sup>) and Itasca<sup>®</sup> (Models: Spirit<sup>®</sup>, Sundancer<sup>®</sup>, Navion<sup>®</sup>, Cambria<sup>®</sup>, Sunova<sup>®</sup>, Sunrise<sup>®</sup>, Meridian<sup>®</sup>, Ellipse<sup>™</sup>, Horizon<sup>®</sup>) motor homes. These motor homes were manufactured November 14, 2005 through December 8, 2005.

### **Repair Procedure:**

Refer to the Kwikkee Instruction Sheet for inspection and replacement of the Kwikkee step control module.

### **Parts Information:**

Kwikkee Products of Cottage Grove, Oregon is providing replacement parts if needed. The parts will be sent to you at no charge. Please contact Kwikkee at (541) 942-3888 and ask for Shirley Hunter.

## **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.

|                                          | <b>OPERATION<br/>NUMBER</b> | <b>TIME<br/>ALLOWANCE</b> |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Inspection of Kwikkee Step Control Unit  | <u>24000101</u>             | <u>.4 hr.</u>             |
| - OR -                                   |                             |                           |
| Replacement of Kwikkee Step Control Unit | <u>24000201</u>             | <u>1.0 hr.</u>            |

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Winnebago Industries, Inc.  
Forest City, Iowa 50436

RP106/5

Enclosures



## Product Service Bulletin

Date: December 14, 2005  
Subject: KSB: 05-03

### Action Required

Immediate action required. Step controls on all Winnebago and Itasca model coaches from the Winnebago factory with a build date between November 14 2005 and December 9 2005 fitted with Kwikkee Products double and single steps require immediate inspection and possible replacement. Specific VIN population available.

### Identifying affected controls

See diagram below. Step controls with a 5-digit date code ending in "a" require replacement.

### Effective Date

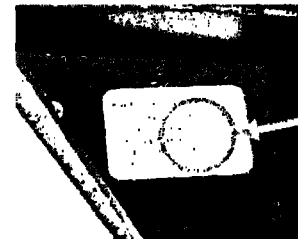
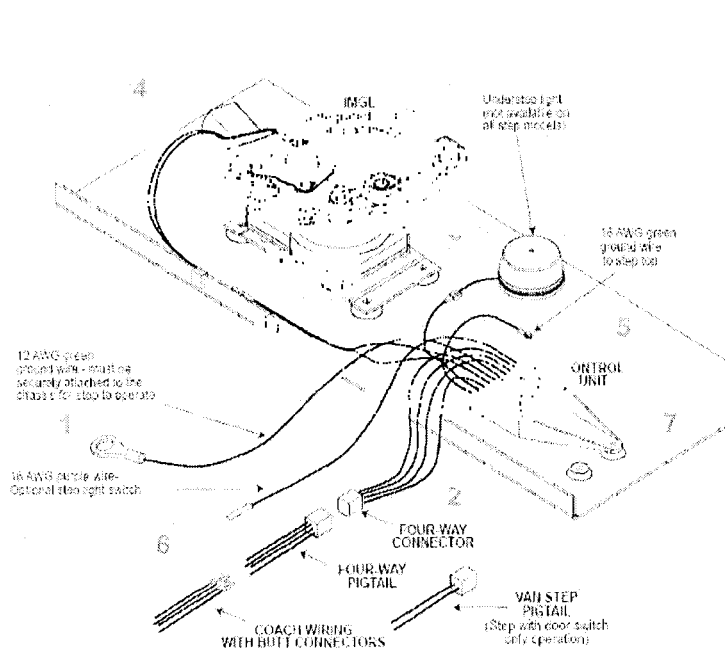
11/14/05

### Nature of issue

Under low temperature (below 15°F) a significant percentage of controls with the 5-digit date code can cease functioning, build up excessive heat, and potentially ignite.

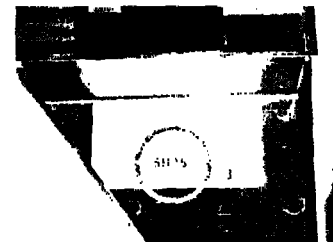
### Corrective Action

If a step is inspected and found to have a control with a 5-digit date code, the control must be immediately replaced. A replacement control kit is available from Kwikkee Products. Labor claims for inspection and/or replacement should be submitted to Winnebago Industries.



NOTE: Date  
Code with "a"

Change



OK

1. Disconnect long green ground wire from RV chassis.
2. Unplug four-way connector from coach wiring.
3. Disconnect wire from step light connector.
4. Unplug connector from step motor.
5. Disconnect short green ground wire from step frame by removing screw.
6. Disconnect purple wire from coach wiring (not used on all coaches).
7. Remove three screws from step control mounting and remove control from step frame.
8. To install new step control follow steps 1 through 7 in reverse order.

**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.

**REASON FOR THIS RECALL**

Winnebago Industries, Inc. has decided that a defect exists on certain vehicles equipped with the Kwikkee<sup>®</sup> brand electric step. The steps may have been manufactured with defective step control units. The defective control units could develop an electrical short allowing for the potential of the plastic case to ignite, possibly resulting in personal injury and/or vehicle and property damage.

**WHAT WE WILL DO**

Winnebago Industries, Inc. dealers will inspect the Kwikkee step and replace the step control unit, if necessary, 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 two hours. 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., Attention: 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>.

**IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR THIS REPAIR**

If you have paid to remedy this issue, you may be eligible for a refund. To obtain information on a refund, contact Winnebago Industries<sup>®</sup> Owner Relations by e-mail at: [or@winnebagoind.com](mailto:or@winnebagoind.com), or write us at: Attention: Owner Relations Department, Winnebago Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 152, Forest City, Iowa 50436; or by telephone at: 1-641-585-6939 or 1-800-537-1885.

**IF YOU HAVE CHANGED ADDRESS OR SOLD THE VEHICLE**

If you have changed your address or sold/traded your vehicle, please let us know by contacting Winnebago Industries Owner Relations by e-mail at: [or@winnebagoind.com](mailto:or@winnebagoind.com); or in writing at: Attention: Owner Relations Department, Winnebago Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 152, Forest City, Iowa 50436; or by telephone at: 1-641-585-6939 or 1-800-537-1885.

Presentation of this letter to the service center will assist in making the necessary correction to your vehicle in the shortest possible time.

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.

## **REIMBURSEMENT PLAN**

Dear Owner:

If you have already paid to have this defect or noncompliance corrected (Winnebago Industries® Recall No. 100), 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 2006 model year Winnebago® (Models: Outlook™, Minnie Winnie®, View®, Aspect®, Sightseer®, Voyage™, Journey®, Tour™, Vectra®) and Itasca® (Models: Spirit®, Sundancer®, Navion®, Cambria®, Sunova®, Sunrise®, Meridian®, Ellipse™, Horizon®) motor home manufactured between November 14, 2005 to December 8, 2005.
2. You have paid to replace the Kwikiee® step control unit.
3. The repair was performed on or prior to January 16, 2006.
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 Kwikiee step control unit 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.  
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. 100**

**Please Print All Information:**

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(If we need additional information)