



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

March 30, 2006

DAVID VANDERMOLEN
SENIOR TECHNICAL RESEARCH LIAISON
JAYCO, INC.
903 SOUTH MAIN ST., PO BOX 460
MIDDLEBURY IN 46540

NVS-215
06V-089

Subject: WEAK WELDS CONVERTER MUFFLERS

Dear MR. VANDERMOLEN:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
JAYCO/AVATAR/2003

NHTSA Campaign Number: 06V-089

Mfg's Report Date: March 20, 2006

Components: ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING: EXHAUST SYSTEM

Potential Number of Units Affected: 3

Summary:

ON CERTAIN MOTOR HOMES EQUIPPED WITH CATERPILLAR DIESEL ENGINES, THE STRAPS THAT SUPPORT THE CONVERTER MUFFLERS TO THE CHASSIS, THESE WELDS ARE CAUSING THE STRAPS TO FAIL.

Consequence:

WHEN THE STRAPS FAIL, THE MUFFLER CAN DROP TO THE GROUND.

Remedy:

CATERPILLAR IS CONDUCTING THE OWNER NOTIFICATION AND REMEDY FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. CATERPILLAR WILL HAVE THE CONVERTER MUFFLER STRAPS REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT CATERPILLAR AT 309-675-6496 OR JAYCO AT 1-800-283-8267.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in your report, Caterpillar will be handling the owner notification, remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.5 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Caterpillar's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov or delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



for George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement