



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

*June 13, 2006*

JEFFERY MELBY  
VICE PRESIDENT, ENVIRONMENTAL & SAFETY  
GENMAR HOLDINGS, INC.  
2900 IDS CENTER, 80 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402-2100

NVS-215  
06V-206

Subject: TRAILER TONGUE WELD

Dear MR. MELBY:

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:**

CHAMPION/BOAT TRAILER/2003-2006  
STRATOS/BOAT TRAILER/2002-2006

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 06V-206

**Mfg's Report Date:** June 1, 2006

**Components:**

TRAILER HITCHES

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 3,608

**Summary:**

CERTAIN BOAT TRAILERS EQUIPPED WITH A RETRACTABLE TONGUE WERE MANUFACTURED INCORRECTLY. THE STEEL FRAME INSERT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN INSERTED INTO THE BRAKE ACTUATOR HOUSING AT THE CORRECT DISTANCE BEFORE THE PARTS WERE WELDED TOGETHER.

**Consequence:**

IF THE RETRACTABLE TONGUE WAS NOT MANUFACTURED CORRECTLY, THE BOTTOM OF THE TOP INSERT COULD CRACK IN THE AREA OF THE GAP. IF THE INSERT CRACKS WITH THE TRAILER IN SERVICE, THE TONGUE COULD BUCKLE CONTACTING THE ROAD SURFACE, WHICH COULD RESULT IN A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND REPAIR THE TRAILERS AS NECESSARY. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JUNE 2006. OWNERS MAY CALL 615-494-2084 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**Notes:**

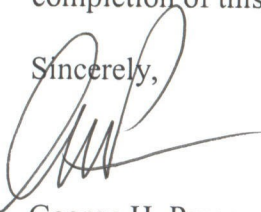
GENMAR RECALL NO. STR1. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

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 Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin in mid-June 2006. Since this is close to the end of the quarter, the first quarterly report will be due on or before October 30, 2006.

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](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@NHTSA.dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



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