



# Forest River, Inc.

55470 County Road 1, P.O. Box 3030, Elkhart, Indiana 46515-3030 • 574-389-4600 • Fax 574-296-7558

06V-229  
(9 pages)

June 8, 2006

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

Forest River, Inc. decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in items of motor vehicle equipment. We are furnishing to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Non Compliance Report We suspect that of 697 units there may be 40% affected by this defect.

The defect is the failure of the axle hub wheel stud. We have had several complaints of studs breaking off. We have notified Axis Products, Inc. 23852 Reedy Drive P.O. Box 1083 Elkhart, IN 46515, the supplier of the axle, of the situation.

They have acknowledged the defect and are working with our U.S. Cargo Division and have replace the hubs on the axles with new hubs of the units still on the premises.

Forest River is compiling a list of potential units, VIN numbers and locations of those units that have been shipped so that we can inform the dealer or retail customer of the potential defect.

Attached are the Defect Form Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report.

Sincerely,

William G. Conway Jr.

Forest River, Inc.

574-534-6913

Fax: 574-534-5011

Email: [bconway@forestriverinc.com](mailto:bconway@forestriverinc.com)

Cc Mike Schere

Robert Crawley Axis Products, Inc.

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**<sup>1</sup>

On 5/23/2006, 1906, 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 items of motor vehicle equipment 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 June 6, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Axis Products, Inc.  
23852 REEDY DRIVE, PO. BOX 1083  
ELKHART, IN 46515

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

Robert CRAWLEY -

Telephone Number: 574-266-8282 Fax No.: 574-266-8333

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

William G. Conway Jr.  
VP. ENGINEERING.

<sup>1</sup>Each 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) 366-5226 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment**

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, *for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:*

Generic name of the item: Wheel Stud

Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Part Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Function: Holds Tire & Wheel onto HUB

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

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Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Part Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

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Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Part Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

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Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Part Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

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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.

**II. Identifying the Recall Population**

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Items Potentially Involved
112104	2006	97
112105	2006	405
112106	2006	3
112107	2006	28
112109	2006	164

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 697

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 40%

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 items of equipment: We began using the Axle Systems 4/1/2006 - The Axle SUPPLIER

Narrowed down the defective studs to 5-8-2006. We corrected the situation 5/23/2006.

**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.

The wheel stud fails. It separates at the base of the thread, at the head and midway down the thread. This reduces clamp force on the wheel.

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

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

The studs snap off and the wheel & tire are no longer secured to the hub. The wheel may separate from the trailer causing it to be a projectile on the highway.

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

Sudden change in the trailers towing.

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

Axis Products Inc. 23852 Leedy Drive  
PO Box 1083 ELKHART, IN 46515

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

Robert Crawley

**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. *5/26/2006 - some failures were noted on production units in the yard. The supplier replaced these 6/6/2006 - one dealer returned several broken studs*
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.

**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.

The hubs will be replaced which will be populated with new studs.

We will run a list of all dealers and retail customers that have these units and ship them new hubs

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

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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 was corrected on 5/23/2006 by the SUPPLIER.

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**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.

Approximately 50% of the suspect units were replaced before they were shipped. We will compare VIN numbers to the master list and notify the balance. We will make arrangements to replace the axle hubs.

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**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: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.**

*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.*