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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

06V-460
(9 pages)

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

On 11-7-, 2006, Starcraft RV, 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 Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: 11-22-06 _____

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): N/A

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.

Starcraft Rv, Inc. _____

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

Joyce Skinner _____
Director, After Market Services _____

Telephone Number: 260-593-2550, ext. 214 Fax No.: 260-593-4803

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Joyce Skinner _____
Director, After Market Services _____

Signed:

¹ 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 Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

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:

Make(s): 2007 Folding Camping Trailers and 2007 Starcraft S/T **Model**

Years Involved: 2007 **Model(s):** 14RT and 36RT Camping Trailers and 2700BH S/T

Production Dates: Beginning: 6-15 for camping trailers and 6-13 for S/T.

Ending: 6-20 for Camping Trailers and 6-22 for S/T.

VIN Range: Beginning: 71BA6426-6445, 71BC6706-6725 and

72GA6775 **Ending:** See above

Vehicle Type: Recreational Vehicles **Bodystyle:** Folding camping trailers and stick and tin travel trailers

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

Purchase orders of axles and priority numbers of when units were produced.

Make(s): See above **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:

See above

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:

See above

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. 100%

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Vehicles	Year	Number of
<u>Model 2007</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Potentially</u>
<u>Involved</u>		
88		

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 100%

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 0%

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:

There have been no reports of accidents, injuries or fatalities relating to a small number of reported axle failures involving mislocated spindle welds. Our investigation to date suggests that the known complaints of spindle weld axle separations or limited to a small number of axles manufactured during specific production runs in the month of May and

June. Lippers surveyed over 2,400 axles from May and June productions runs and have found no other mislocated spindle welds. Beginning in June 2006, Lippert instituted numerous enhancements to its manufacturing and quality control processes. The have received no reports of spindle weld axle failures with build dates after June 19, 2006. Lippert has replaced, to the satisfaction of its customers and at no cost, all axles known to have mislocated axle spindle welds with axles that are manufactured to meet Lippert's design and durability specifications.

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 weld joining the axle tube to the spindle was mislocated.

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

The axle spindle failures are believed to be the result of a mislocated axle weld applied during manufacture, most likely due to a marked increase in daily production volumes beginning in May and continuing through June. Which brought with it a need for enhancements to the existing production and quality control processes.

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

The spindle may partially or completely separate from the axle tube and the wheel and hub assembly may come off the vehicle.

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

There have been no reports of visual, audible, or tactile feedback that immediately preceded an alleged spindle weld axle failure.

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

Lippert Components, Inc. is the manufacturer of the axle assembly.

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

Scott, T. Mereness, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

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.

No accidents, injuries or fatalities reported. We had one occurrence with a 2007 34RT camping trailer while still at our factory which Lippert came and repaired the same day. The other occurrence was on 7-18-06 on a 2007 2700BH that was in the possession of the customer. They were returning home from a trip and while pulling into their driveway, the wheel came off. Lippert was contacted and they went to the customer residence and changed the axle.

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.

N/A

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

Any calls received by us are sent to Lippert Components and they, in turn, take care of the remedy.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

None – Lippert Components handling all aspects of remedy/recall condition.

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

N/A – Being handled by Lippert Components

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.

Lippert Components sent a crew to our facility to do an inspection of all units. No other problems were found.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. 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.

Lippert Components has drafted letters to be sent to our dealers and customers.

Once the letter has been approved by NHTSA, it will be sent by Starcraft on our letterhead. Lippert will do all field inspections and, if necessary, replace the axles.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. 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 579.5 requirements.