

November 6, 2006

RECEIVED

2006 DEC -4 A 10:30

VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

Mr. George H. Person
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
400 7th Street, S.W. NSA-11
Washington, DC 20590

06V-468
(15 pages)

Re: Thor California, Inc.
Defect and Non-Compliance Report Update for Recall 04V-243

Dear Mr. Person:

As a follow-up to the original Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report for recall number 04V-243, I am submitting this updated information and attached documents for your review and approval.

A. Manufacturer Information. The affected trailers were manufactured by:

THOR California, Inc.
14255 Elsworth St.
Moreno Valley, CA 92553-9013

The agency should contact the following individual with respect to this recall:

Brad Williams
Director of Service
THOR California, Inc.
14255 Elsworth St.
Moreno Valley, CA 92553-9013
(951) 697-4190
bwilliams@thorca.com

- B. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The vehicles involved in this recall are: 2004/2005 333VTB Wanderer/Vortex cargo/travel trailers, 2004/2005 33WTB Tahoe/Fury cargo/travel trailers, and 2004/2005 3330WTB Jazz/Frenzy cargo/travel travel trailers manufactured from April 2003 through March 2004. THOR California, Inc. reports a total of 117 units that are affected by this issue.
- C. Description of Defect. On trailers affected by this recall, the A-frame, coupler and safety chain weight capacity are underrated, and there exists a possibility of

overloading and incorrect positioning of cargo in the rear cargo area. Incorrectly positioned weight in this area can result in a light hitch weight and affect stability. Depending on the specific tow vehicle and its hitch equipment, a sufficiently light hitch weight can result in sway at highway speeds. Excessive weight incorrectly positioned can also result in severe bending of the A-frame assembly, failure of the coupler assembly and/or failure of the safety chains. This can cause an accident involving the trailer and tow vehicle.

- D. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. The defect was discovered after a single customer complaint related to this defect. A field repair was developed and is outlined in the Service Bulletin. THOR California, Inc. is not aware of any injuries that have resulted from this safety defect. THOR California, Inc. is not aware of any accidents that have resulted from this safety defect.
- E. Remedying of Defect. THOR California will, through its dealer service network and at no charge to the customer, inspect each affected trailer, the owner's tow vehicle and hitch equipment, and determine the best specific remedy for each situation. In all cases involving these trailers, the GVWR will be reduced, the A-frame will be reinforced, the coupler and safety chains will be replaced with appropriately rated components, revised DOT weight placards will be attached to the trailer exterior, proper loading advisory placards will be attached to the inside of the trailer cargo area, and instructions outlining proper product use and correct loading techniques will be provided to the customer. A production design change has remedied the defect in subsequent production.
- F. Owner Notifications. THOR California, Inc. intends to conduct a customer notification mailing on 15 November 2006. A copy of the Owner's Letter is included for your approval.
- G. Dealer Notifications. THOR California, Inc. intends to conduct a dealer notification mailing on 15 November 2006. A copy of the Dealer's Notification is included for your approval.
- H. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. THOR California will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 04V-243.
- I. Campaign Number. THOR California will use the recall campaign number 04V-243 that was assigned by NHTSA.

Mr. George H. Person
November 6, 2006
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The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of THOR California with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of THOR California in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM Mihalick', written in a cursive style.

David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager

THOR CALIFORNIA

RECALL NOTICE

RECALL CAMPAIGN No. 04V-243

VIN:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Reason for Notification

THOR California, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2004/2005 Wanderer/Vortex 333WTB, Tahoe/Fury 33FTB, and 3330WTB Jazz/Frenzy model cargo/travel trailers manufactured from April 2003 through March 2004. According to our records, your trailer is in this group. For this reason we ask that you arrange for your dealer to correct your vehicle without delay. The service and required parts will be provided free of charge. If you have sold or traded your trailer, please fill out the enclosed postcard and mail it to THOR California so that we can locate the current owner of the trailer.

Description of Defect

We have determined that there is a possibility of overloading and incorrectly positioning cargo in the rear cargo area. Incorrectly positioned weight in this area can result in a light hitch weight and affect stability. Depending on the specific tow vehicle and its hitch equipment, a sufficiently light hitch weight can result in sway at highway speeds. Too much weight incorrectly positioned can also result in severe bending of the A-frame assembly, failure of the coupler assembly and/or failure of the safety chains. This can cause an accident involving the trailer and tow vehicle. A Safety Recall procedure has been initiated to inspect each affected trailer, the owner's tow vehicle and hitch equipment, and determine the best remedy for each situation. In all cases involving these trailers, the GVWR will be reduced, the A-frame will be reinforced, the coupler and safety chains will be replaced with appropriately rated components, revised DOT weight placards will be attached to the trailer exterior, proper loading advisory placards will be attached to the inside of the trailer cargo area, and instructions outlining proper product use and correct loading techniques will be provided to the customer.

Description of Remedy

The program to be implemented by THOR California to remedy the defect includes this notification to all current owners of the subject trailers. To correct the defect, your dealer will:

a) inspect your trailer, tow vehicle and hitch equipment; b) install new cargo load limit labels and placards in the cargo area; c) furnish you with loading limit information; d) replace the coupler and safety chains; and e) reinforce the A-frame.

Failure to have this important recall completed may result in severe bending of the A-frame assembly, failure of the coupler assembly and/or failure of the safety chains, possible loss of trailer control while towing, and the possibility of a vehicle crash as a consequence of loss of trailer control. Please have this recall performed as soon as possible. Failure to do so could legally be determined to be lack of proper maintenance of your trailer.

What We Would Like You To Do

Please take your trailer to your selling dealer or any other authorized THOR California servicing dealer to have the repairs performed. Dealers and service centers have been informed of this recall and are prepared to perform it to your satisfaction. This recall will be performed at no cost to you.

You should call your dealer or service center at your earliest convenience to schedule an appointment. When you take your trailer to the dealer, please bring this letter and your warranty/ownership documents with you. This will allow the dealer to prepare the necessary warranty forms most efficiently. The work will take about 6.5 hours to complete. However, additional time may be required depending on how dealer appointments are scheduled and processed. Once the repairs are completed, please present the attached postcard to the repair facility for submission to THOR California.

If the defect referred to above has been repaired on your trailer before you received this recall notification, and if you incurred any direct cost in connection with obtaining such repair, you may seek reimbursement from THOR California. In order to obtain reimbursement, you must submit the following information: (1) *your name and mailing address*; (2) *the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for your trailer*; (3) *a reference to this recall campaign 04V-243*; (4) *a copy of the receipt or invoice for the repair*.

This reimbursement may be obtained by sending your request for reimbursement along with the above information to:

THOR California, Inc.
14255 Elsworth Street
Moreno Valley, CA 92553-9013
Customer Relations Department: (888) 697-8467

We have notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the recall and the procedures involved. However, should THOR California fail or be unable to correct the defect, without charge, you may write to:

*Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590*

or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236; access the email address at the NHTSA Web site: <http://www.safercar.gov>, or contact the NHTSA teletypewriter at (800) 424-9153.

Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

We regret any inconvenience that this action may cause you. However, we are concerned about your safety. Thank you for your patience and support in helping us to keep you safe. We appreciate your continued loyalty to and confidence in THOR California and our products. It is our goal to continue to provide you with high-quality, high-value products for your recreational experience.

Sincerely Yours,

THOR California, Inc.

THOR CALIFORNIA

RECALL NOTICE

RECALL CAMPAIGN No. 04V-243

Dear Dealer:

We have identified a group of 2004/2005 Wanderer/Vortex 333WTB, Tahoe/Fury 33FTB and Jazz/Frenzy 3330WTB cargo/travel trailers manufactured from April 2003 through March 2004 on which there exists a possibility of overloading in the rear cargo area. Too much weight in this area can result in a light hitch weight and affect stability. Depending on the specific tow vehicle and its hitch equipment, a sufficiently light hitch weight can result in sway at highway speeds. Too much weight incorrectly positioned can also result in severe bending of the A-frame assembly, failure of the coupler assembly and/or failure of the safety chains. This can cause an accident involving the trailer and tow vehicle. A Safety Recall procedure has been initiated to inspect each affected trailer, the owner's tow vehicle and hitch equipment, and determine the best remedy for each situation. In all cases involving these trailers, the GVWR will be reduced, the A-frame will be reinforced, the coupler and safety chains will be replaced with appropriately rated components, revised DOT weight placards will be attached to the trailer exterior, proper loading advisory placards will be attached to the inside of the trailer cargo area, and instructions outlining proper product use and correct loading techniques will be provided to the customer.

We have identified and contacted owners of units that may be affected. A copy of that letter is also enclosed. We have instructed affected owners to contact you and schedule an appointment with your facility to have this recall performed. The recall is to be performed at no cost to the retail customer.

What We Are Asking You To Do

You may receive calls from retail owners to schedule an appointment. Please schedule these appointments according to your work load and customer accommodation. Please call for authorization before performing the recall on any unit.

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act provides that each vehicle that 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. Generally, failure to repair within sixty (60) days after the owner's first delivery for repair is assumed to be an unreasonable delay.

All unsold trailers in your possession that are subject to this recall campaign must be held and inspected/repared in accordance with the service procedure of this campaign bulletin before owners can take possession of these trailers. Please service all trailers subject to this recall campaign at no charge to the owners, regardless of age or vehicle ownership, from this time forward.

You should contact owners of trailers recently sold from your vehicle inventory for which you have received the owner notification letter and make arrangements to perform the required service according to the instructions enclosed with this bulletin. At a minimum, mail the owner a copy of the owner notification letter accompanying this bulletin.

What THOR California Will Do

Since this recall is to be performed at no charge to the retail customer, THOR California, Inc. will reimburse you as outlined in the Recall Service Bulletin. If you have questions about this recall, or require further information or assistance, please contact THOR California Customer Relations Department at (888) 697-8467.

It is our goal that working with you we can continue to deliver a high level of customer support to our retail owners. You are an important part of our customer support team, and we appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

THOR California, Inc.

THOR CALIFORNIA, INC.
14255 Elsworth Street
Moreno Valley, California 92553

Date: 23 October 2006

Ref. #: 04V-243

Subject:**Coupler Replacement**

Application:

2004/2005 333VTB Wanderer/Vortex

2004/2005 33WTB Tahoe/Fury

2004/2005 3330WTB Jazz/Frenzy

Manufactured from April 2003 through March 2004
(See VIN list on back page)

The bulletin describes the procedure to add reinforcing steel to the A-frame, install a new coupler with higher weight capacity, and higher capacity safety chains to correct insufficient tongue weight capacity.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Floor jack(s), jack stands of sufficient capacity to lift and fully support the trailer.

Welding (MIG) equipment

Cutting (acetylene) equipment

Grinder

Hand and/or power tools to remove stabilizer jacks and components mounted on the
A-frame

1/4" and 1/2" drill and drill motor

Fire extinguishing equipment

PARTS/MATERIALS REQUIRED

<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Part No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	R000006	Parts kit containing the following (except primer & paint):
2	R000005	U-channel, 2" X 2" X 2" X 54"
1	R000001	Coupler assembly, 15,000 lb. capacity
1	R000004	Plate, post jack, 2M
2	R000002	Chain, safety, 16,000 lb.
1	R000003	Rod, 7/16" cold-rolled for chain
A/R		Primer/black chassis paint (acquire locally)

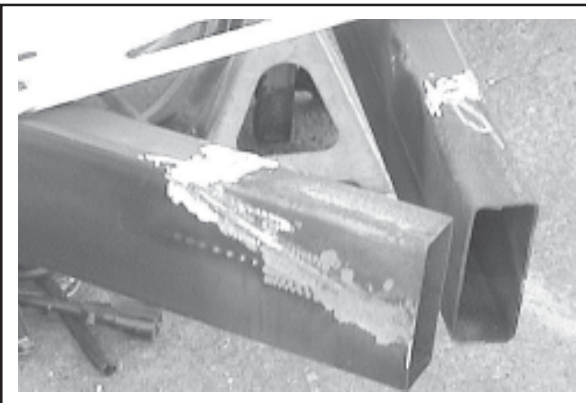
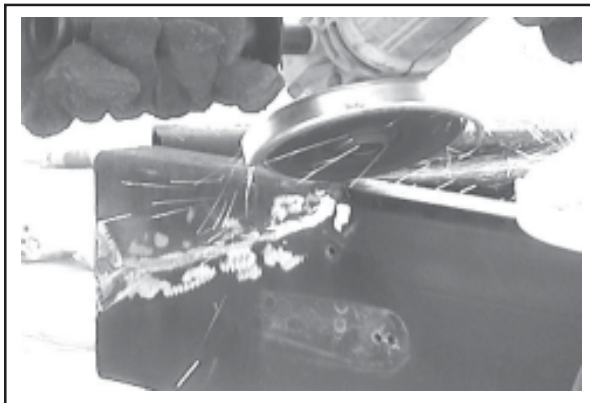
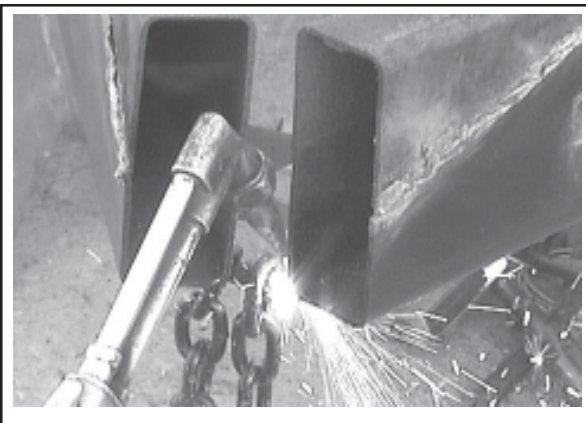
PROCEDURE (See illustrations)

1. Locate the unit on a solid, level area where the front frame can be raised and supported on stands. Park unit in a straight line to minimize chassis twisting. Lift with the tongue jack. Set jack stands under the A-frame at the front wall. Retract the tongue jack.

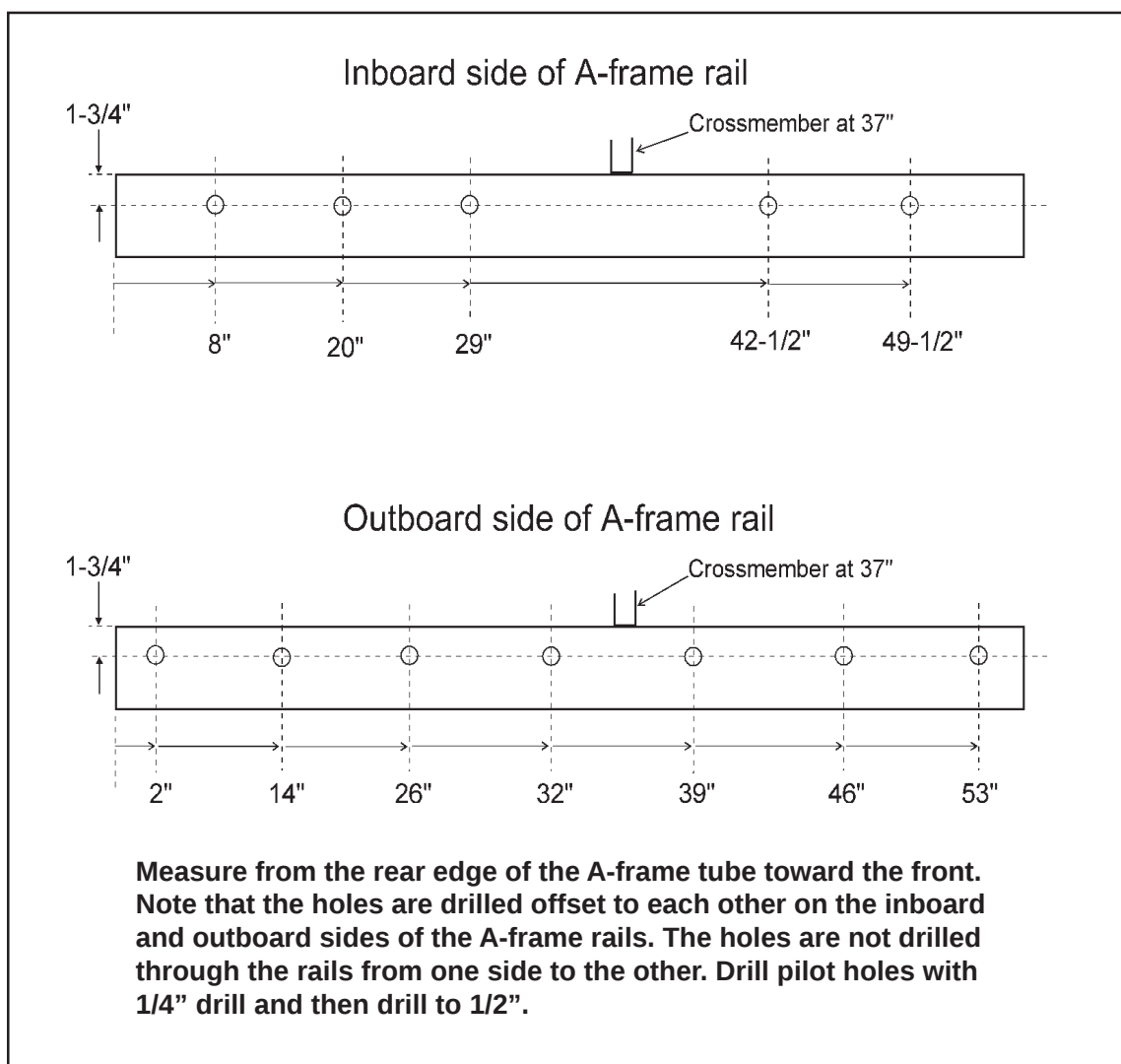
2. Remove the following components from the A-frame:

- Propane cylinders, regulator, switchover valve and tray (do not disconnect system)
- Battery and battery box
- Breakaway switch
- Electrical components and wiring attached to the A-frame
- Disconnect (if electric) and remove tongue jack

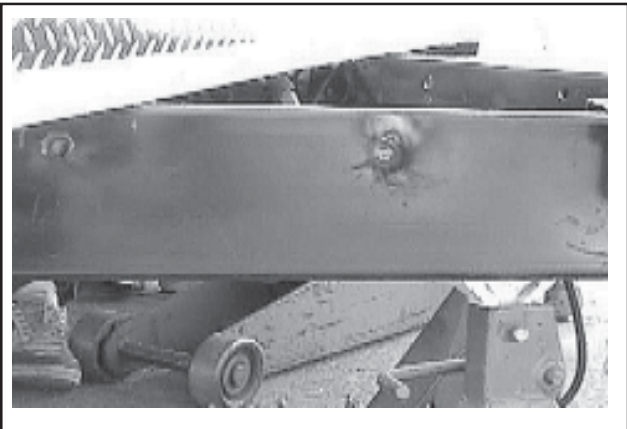
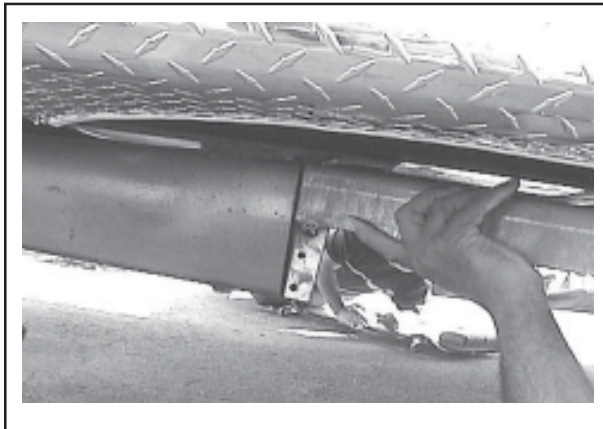
NOTE: Do not remove customer installed items such as hitch bar mounts, etc.)



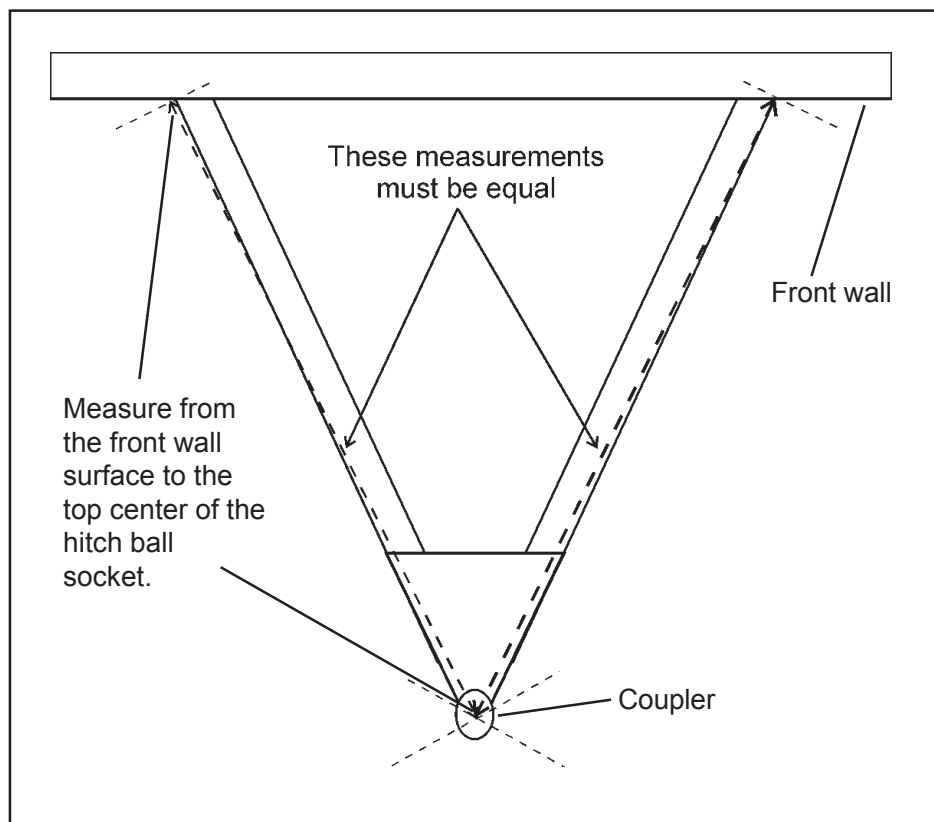
3. Torch cut off the coupler and safety chains.
4. Grind off old weld down to the A-frame channel.
5. Carefully mark and drill $\frac{1}{4}$ " pilot holes, and drill $\frac{1}{2}$ " holes in the A-frame channel as shown in the illustration. (**NOTE:** If it is anticipated that several or many units will be repaired, a drilling jig can be made to reduce the time involved in measuring.)



6. Look through the A-frame channel from the rear. Check for any obstructions. The reinforcing steel must be inserted from the rear and it extends to 17" past the front wall. The inside of the channel must be clear for at least this distance.
7. Insert the reinforcing steel into the A-frame with the open side down. The tab welded to the end of the steel must be inserted first. Slide it toward the front until it is flush with the end of the A-frame channel. Clamp the end of the reinforcing steel to the end of the A-frame channel. The reinforcing steel must be held in the channel squarely to the top of the channel with little or no gap.



8. Weld the reinforcing steel to the A-frame channel through the drilled holes. Weld all around the holes. Weld the end of the reinforcing steel to the A-frame channel end.
9. Remove weld residue, grind flat.
10. Set and temporarily clamp in place the new coupler. Measure along either the inside or the outside of both A-frame rails to the top and center of the hitch ball socket. The measurement must be the same on both sides. Adjust the position of the coupler as required. Clamp securely and weld coupler to the A-frame rails.



11. Torch cut off the bottom tongue jack plate.
12. Temporarily attach the tongue jack to the coupler. Tighten bolts to hold it in place.
13. Slide the new lower plate onto the lower jack extension. Slide the plate up to the A-frame rails, position it squarely and clamp it in position.
14. Remove the tongue jack and weld the lower plate to the A-frame rails.
15. Slide the end links of the new safety chains onto the 7/16" cold rolled steel bar. Clamp the bar and chains to the A-frame in the original position, and weld in place.
16. Remove all weld residue and grind welds flat. Prep for paint.
17. Clean areas where component were removed. Remove all rust, etc. and prep for paint.
18. Mask front wall and other areas from paint overspray. Prime and paint with chassis black paint.
19. Reinstall all components removed in previous steps. Remake any electrical connections that were cut during disassembly.
 - Propane cylinders, valves, tray
 - Battery box and battery
 - Wiring and other electrical components
 - Other components
20. Test tongue jack and other electrical components for proper operation.
21. Remove jack stands.

Warranty Labor Allowance:

**Prior authorization is required for this repair.
Call for authorization.**

Flat Rate Code:	150002	Recall 04V-243, coupler replacement
	6.5 hrs	PAR

46074	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	48516	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	50763	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46608	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	48517	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	50764	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46609	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	48773	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50765	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46610	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	48774	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50766	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46611	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	48775	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50767	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46612	3330FTB TT JAZZ	48776	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	50780	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46613	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	48799	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50781	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46614	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	48800	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50782	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46615	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	48981	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50783	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46616	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	48982	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50784	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46617	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	49201	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50785	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46618	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49203	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51159	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER
46619	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49204	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51160	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46620	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	49205	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51161	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46621	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49560	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51162	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46622	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49561	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51867	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46623	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49562	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51868	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER
46624	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49563	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51869	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER
46625	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49846	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51870	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER
46626	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	49847	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51879	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46627	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	49848	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51880	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46628	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49849	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	51881	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46629	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49850	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51882	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46630	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49851	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51959	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46631	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49866	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51960	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46632	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49867	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	51961	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46633	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49868	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	51962	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46634	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	49869	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52208	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46635	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49870	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52209	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46636	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	49871	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52210	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER
46637	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50256	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	52211	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER
46638	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	50257	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	52461	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
46639	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	50258	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	52462	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
48488	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50259	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52463	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER
48489	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50331	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52464	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER
48490	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50332	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52503	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
48491	333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER	50333	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52504	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
48514	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50334	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52505	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY
48515	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	50762	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY	52506	33FTB TT TAHOE FURY



CAUTION

Trailer weight, weight distribution, and tire inflation pressure are major factors in safe and economical towing of your trailer. Follow these rules for good, safe towing:

1. Use an equalizer hitch with 2-5/16" hitch ball.
2. Tighten all lug nuts before first movement and at 10, 25, and 50 miles. See the Owner's Guide for correct torque specification and instructions on changing a tire.
3. Maintain cold tire pressure as shown on the tire inflation tag attached to the front left side of the trailer.
4. Braking performance of your towing vehicle and trailer are affected by several factors, including the respective size and weight of each vehicle. Make several low speed stops using the trailer brakes alone, followed by several low speed stops using both the trailer brakes and the towing vehicle before you make your first trip. Please refer to the installation instructions furnished with your electric brake controller for further information.
5. Avoid overloading. The total trailer weight (dry weight of the standard equipped trailer plus all added options, fresh water, liquid wastes in holding tanks, and all cargo) must not exceed the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) stated on the weight certification tag attached to the front left side of the trailer.
6. The total load of your fully loaded trailer when connected to the towing vehicle must not exceed the combined total gross axle weight rating (GAWR). The GAWR is stated on the weight certification tag attached to the front left side of the trailer.
7. Weigh your fully loaded trailer at a public scale. Weigh separately:
 - A. The load on your tow vehicle rear with your trailer connected. This must not exceed your tow vehicle manufacturer's GAWR for the tow vehicle rear axle.
 - B. The weight on the wheels when connected to the tow vehicle. This weight must not exceed the combined total GAWR.
 - C. The total weight on the wheels and tongue jack when disconnected from the tow vehicle. This weight must not exceed the trailer GVWR.
8. Balance the load from side to side. Store heavy objects on or near the floor. For ramp trailers, place 60% of the cargo weight over or slightly forward of the axle(s) center line.
9. Avoid towing with waste holding tank(s) full. If unavoidable, drive slowly until tank(s) can be dumped.
10. Keep water and waste holding tanks either completely full or empty when towing. The movement of the water/waste can change the loading balance of the trailer when towing.

Contact your dealer if you have any questions on these rules and other towing tips.



WARNING

**PLACE 60% OF CARGO WEIGHT
FORWARD OF THIS LABEL.**

FAILURE TO DISTRIBUTE CARGO LOAD PROPERLY
WILL RESULT IN AN UNSTABLE TOWING CONDITON.
THIS CAN CAUSE AN ACCIDENT,
RESULTING IN INJURY OR DEATH.

CONSULT YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL FOR
LOADING AND TOWING GUIDELINES.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THIS LABEL.



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**PLACE 60% OF CARGO WEIGHT
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