

December 21, 2006

**VIA E-MAIL**  
**RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

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

06V-491  
(2 pages)

Re: Dutchmen Manufacturing Inc.  
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Person:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain trailers manufactured by Dutchmen Manufacturing, Inc., a wholly owned company of Thor Industries, Inc. (Dutchmen) may contain a defect which has been determined by Dutchmen to be safety related.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. Dutchmen has determined that the defect may be present in the following trailers:

<u>Model</u>	<u>Years Built</u>	<u># Built</u>
T@B	2003-2006	2442

The total number of trailers subject to this recall campaign is 1939. At the present time, Dutchmen has identified only one trailer that contains the defect and which is likely to be a result of a major wall replacement rather than an initial manufacturing defect. Dutchmen is not aware of any other trailers that contain the defect. However, Dutchmen has decided to conduct this recall as a precautionary measure.

- B. Description of Defect. The potential defect involves the lack of a furnace vent for Atwood model furnaces installed in the trailers. The lack of an exhaust vent allows furnace combustion products containing carbon monoxide fumes to vent into the trailer, which could result in serious injury or death to the occupants of the trailer. This potential risk arises only in the event that the furnace is in use. Most T@B models include carbon monoxide detectors but some of the earliest models may not have the detectors.

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- C. Remedying of Defect. The program to be implemented by Dutchmen to remedy the defect will include notification to all known registered owners of the subject trailers including, but not limited to, all dealers with such trailers in stock. Owners will be instructed to visually check for the presence of the exhaust vent on the exterior of the vehicle and to complete a postage paid return letter or to call a toll-free telephone number. The exhaust vent is located in approximately the same position on the rear portion of the left wall of the vehicle behind the wheel. Pictures will be provided to indicate the position of the exhaust vent and to make the simple visual identification. Owners will also have the option of taking the vehicle to a certified dealer for inspection.

If the exhaust vent is not present or there are any other questions on the operation of the furnace, the owner will be instructed not to use the furnace and to take their trailer to the nearest authorized Dutchmen dealer or service center for repair. Dutchmen's authorized dealers and service centers will be provided written instructions identifying the potential defect and the repair procedure that will need to be undertaken. As will be set forth in the notification letter mailed to the registered owners, the defect will be corrected by Dutchmen at no cost to the owner.

- D. Owner Notifications. The owner notification letter, return mail postcard, and envelope will be submitted to NHTSA for review and approval before mailing to customers.
- E. Dealer Notifications. The dealer notification letter will be submitted to NHTSA for review and approval before mailing to dealers.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Dutchmen will be responsible for filing all quarterly reports associated with this recall campaign.
- G. Campaign Number. Dutchmen does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Dutchmen will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

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

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick  
Thor Industries  
Standards Compliance Manager