



U.S. Department
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

June 25, 2007

WILLIAM G. CONWAY, JR.
FOREST RIVER, INC.
PO BOX 3030
ELKHART, IN 46515-3030

NVS-215paw
07V-249

Subject: BOTTOM STEP PIVOT ARM/HICKORY SPRINGS

Dear MR. CONWAY:

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: TO BE PROVIDED

NHTSA Campaign Number: 07V-249

Mfg's Report Date: May 21, 2007

Components: EQUIPMENT: RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 287

Summary:

ON CERTAIN TRAVEL TRAILERS EQUIPPED WITH HICKORY SPRINGS "BIG EASY TRIPLE STEPS," AN IMPROPER ENGAGEMENT OF THE BOTTOM STEP PIVOT ARM WITH THE FORMED STOP EDGE OF THE MIDDLE STEP SUPPORT BRACKET CAN RESULT IN THE BOTTOM STEP ROTATING TO AN UNSAFE DOWNWARD ANGLE.

Consequence:

A PERSON COULD BE INJURED SHOULD THE STEP GIVE WAY WHILE BEING USED TO ENTER OR EXIT THE TRAILER.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE TRAILERS FOR THE MANUFACTURING DATE STICKER TO VERIFY THE DATE OF PRODUCTION OF THE STEP AND, IF NECESSARY, WILL WELD STOCK TO EACH SIDE OF THE LOWER (TRIPLE) STEP STOP EDGES. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED AN OWNER NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT CEDAR CREEK, PUMA, OR SABRE AT 1-574-389-4600.

Notes:

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).

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577.

The first sentence should be "This notice is sent to you..."

The second sentence needs to read: "Forest River, Inc., has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Cedar Creek, Puma, and Sabre model travel trailers equipped with Hickory Springs 'Big Easy Triple Steps.'"

A risk needs to be added at the end of the fourth paragraph, i.e., "A person could be injured should the step give way while being used to enter or exit the trailer."

Please revise your owner letters to include the following updated NHTSA hotline information: "...the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>."

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Please provide us with the make, model, beginning and ending dates for the trailers affected by this recall.

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

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. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

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@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person", written in a cursive style.

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