



RECEIVED

2007 MAR 7

07V-084  
(5 Pages)

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

February 28, 2007

Director, Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Part # 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC. – Lp Bottle Tray – Mounting Screws

Dear Mr. Person;

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC has determined that a potential safety defect may exist on certain 2007 MY Capri Micro Travel Trailers, model 135RE. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility from November 28, 2006 through January 5, 2007.

A total of 24 units are potentially affected by this defect.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT**

On affected units, the self tapping screws that are used to secure the Lp Bottle support tray to the trailer frame may fail. The support tray is mounted to the A-frame of the trailer and holds the Lp bottles securely in place. Should these screws fail, the Lp bottles could come loose, disengage from the trailer and cause an accident.

These screws are installed to a specific torque value (15 ft-lbs) when the tray is assembled to the trailer "A-frame". On the affected units, the Lp support trays were removed after initial installation and then remounted using the same screws. These re-used screws, having been torqued already once, have reduced load capacity and therefore are not adequate for the intended load.

#### **DISCOVERY OF THE DEFECT**

Coachmen became aware of the existence of a problem with these units on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 when we received report of a failure from one of our drivers that occurred on a unit being delivered from our facility to a dealer. An investigation was conducted and it was discovered that the Lp trays on this particular model had been removed and re-installed with the same fasteners.

### **PRECLUSION OF POTENTIAL DEFECT**

ANSI A1192, section 5.2.4.1 is the governing standard for securing of Lp tanks in recreational vehicles. This requirement reads as follows: "Containers shall be secured in place so they do not become dislodged when a load equal to eight times the container's filled weight is applied to the filled container's center of gravity in any direction." The design of the Lp tank assembly in these units has been tested and does, with the "fresh" screws, comply with this standard.

Further, we have reviewed this procedure with our associates responsible for mounting these tanks to insure understanding that these fasteners are not to be re-used.

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC will supply the necessary instructions for making the repairs to remedy this defect. The repairs will be done by Coachmen dealers at no expense to the dealers or the retail customers.

All purchasers and dealerships that receive these units with the potential defect will be advised by mail regarding this problem.

Attached is a copy of our proposed owner notification letter for your review and approval. We can start the mailing campaign and begin providing the recall remedy within 5 days of your approval of this letter.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please advise.

Very Truly Yours,

**COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC.**



Gary L. Duncan

Cc: Rick Lavers – Coachmen Industries  
Michael Terlep, Jr. – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company LLC  
Sandra Kennedy – Coachmen Industries



---

**COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC**

February 28, 2007

Dear Coachmen Owner:

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

Coachmen RV Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2007 Capri Micro Travel Trailers, model 135RE. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility from November 28, 2006 through January 5, 2007.

**Safety Defect**

On affected vehicles, the self tapping screws that are used to secure the LP Bottle support tray to the trailer frame may fail. The support tray is mounted to the A-frame of the trailer and holds the LP bottles securely in place. Should these screws fail, the LP bottles could come loose, disengage from the trailer and cause an accident. The potential for failure will depend on road surface conditions. If significant contact were to occur over a period of time, the LP tank or lines could be damaged and potentially leak LP gas, which could result in a fire.

**Do not operate affected vehicles over extended distances until your vehicle has been repaired.**

**Repairs**

Please take you unit promptly to your Coachmen dealer. At no charge to you, the Coachmen dealer will perform the required repairs. The necessary repairs should not take more than (1) hour.

**Refunds**

If you have paid to have this service performed prior to receiving this notice, you can receive a full refund. Please mail your paid original invoice or receipt to Coachmen RV Services, P.O. Box 1000, Middlebury, Indiana 46540.

**Changed Address or Sold The Vehicle?**

Please fill out the enclosed pre-paid postcard and mail it to us if you have changed your address or sold the vehicle. Any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days. If your dealer does not make the required repair promptly and without charge, you may contact Coachmen Customer Service at 1-800-453-6064. You may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236

**We regret the inconvenience this situation may have caused you. However, Coachmen RV Company believes in the early detection and immediate correction of potential concerns, Thank you for your understanding.**

**Sincerely,**

**Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC**



**COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC**

February 28, 2007

TO: All Coachmen RV Company Dealers

RE: Safety Recall

Dear Coachmen Dealer:

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

Coachmen RV Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2007 Capri Micro Travel Trailers, model 135 RE. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility from November 28, 2006 through January 5, 2007.

On affected vehicles, the self tapping screws that are used to secure the LP Bottle support tray to the trailer frame may fail. The support tray is mounted to the A frame of the trailer and holds the LP bottles securely in place. Should these screws fail, the LP bottles could come loose, disengage from the trailer and cause an accident. The potential for failure will depend on road surface conditions. If significant contact were to occur over a period of time, the LP tank or lines could be damaged and potentially leak LP gas, which could result in a fire.

Do not operate affected vehicles over extended distances until your vehicle has been repaired.

Owners of suspect units will be notified in a letter instructing them to contact their Coachmen dealer to schedule an appointment to have their unit repaired. A copy of this letter is attached for your reference.

Please find attached repair instructions and information relating to the preparation and submission of claims for reimbursement.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact your Regional Service Manager at 1-888-516-3569

Sincerely,

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company