

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment
REVISED PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹
07V-464

On September 24th, 2007, Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. [MFR] decided that a defect which relates to motor safety exists in items of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: September 24th, 2007 (Revised 1-15-08)
Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): #PR07-1

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. (FFT) (A wholly owned subsidiary of
Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc.
Beacon Street
Somerset, PA 15501

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

Theodore V. Harris, P.E.
Chief Design Engineer

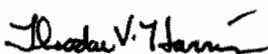
Telephone Number: (814) 443-7367 FAX No: (814) 443-7332

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report:

Theodore V. Harris, P.E.
Chief Design Engineer

¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report to Mr. Dan Smith, the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed for 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-1767.

Signed: 

January 15, 2008
Date

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, *for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:*

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Arcadia
Model Number: 4131 / 4231 Size: 14'
Function: Power lift configuration
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Sequoia
Model Number: 4132 Size: 14'
Function: Power lift configuration
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Niagara
Model Number: 4133 / 4233 Size: 14'
Function: Power lift configuration
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Saratoga
Model Number: 4135 / 4235 Size: 12'
Function: Power lift configuration
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Avalon
Model Number: 4149 / 4249 Size: 16'
Function: Power lift configuration
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Williamsburg
Model Number: 4150 / 4250 Size: 12'
Function: Power lift configuration
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Bayside
Model Number: 4178 / 4278 Size: 12'
Function: Power lift configuration
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Utah
Model Number: 4181 / 4281 Size: 12'
Function: Power lift configuration
Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
 Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Santa Fe
 Model Number: 4189 / 4289 Size: 10'
 Function: Power lift configuration
 Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
 Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Sun Valley
 Model Number: 4191 / 4291 Size: 12'
 Function: Power lift configuration
 Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

Generic name of the item: Recreational Vehicle
 Make: Fleetwood Folding Trailer, Inc. Model: Cheyenne
 Model Number: 4196 Size: 10'
 Function: Power lift configuration
 Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: None

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. Identifying the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance. Updated 1-15-08.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Items Potentially Involved</u>
Arcadia	2007/2008	159 / 44
Sequoia	2007	49 / 0
Niagara	2007/2008	435 / 165
Saratoga	2007/2008	51 / 65
Avalon	2007/2008	492 / 209
Williamsburg	2007/2008	71 / 29
Bayside	2007/2008	103 / 19
Utah	2007/2008	109 / 19
Santa Fe	2007/2008	19 / 3
Sun Valley	2007/2008	43 / 10
Cheyenne	2007	33 / 0

Total Number of Potentially Affected by the Recall: 2,127

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

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 items of equipment:

Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc. manufactured 1,564 model year 2007 and 563 model year 2008 trailers during the period between April 24th, 2006 to November 1st, 2007 that contain the potential defect. These are the only units of this type manufactured to date.

III. Identifying the Recall Population

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 defect exists in units produced with a Barker Manufacturing Co., Inc. (BMC) Power Lift Roof System. The power lift system was designed to be operated with a **BATTERY ONLY**. If the power lift is operated with the trailer's 30A power cord plugged into a 110VAC outlet, the trailer's converter is not capable of supplying sufficient voltage to the current limiter at the top and bottom of an operational cycle. If the voltage drops, the time period (in milliseconds) to shut-off the motor increases substantially. During a shut-down period, a failure in the lift system may occur due to motors that generate an excessive amount of "impact" torque. A repeated excessive amount of impact torque loading against either stop bushing can cause a shear pin to dislodge, back-out, and/or subsequently bend/break which then allows the ball-bearing nut to travel past the stop location and strip-out.

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

The primary cause of the defect is the excessive amount of impact torque generated by the BMC power lift motor if the power lift is operated with the 30A power cord plugged into a 110VAC power source (with or without a battery).

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

A failure in one of the shear pins results in damage to the FFT lift system. In the worst-case, a roof could free-fall from the raised position, possibly resulting in risk of personal injury, vehicle and/or property damage.

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

The whiffle-tree screw assembly will turn freely when powered by the motor. The top will not lower or raise.

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

Barker Manufacturing Co., Inc.
730 E. Michigan Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49016

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

Don Snyder
Director of Engineering

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.

(SEE ATTACHED SUMMARY AT END OF REPORT)

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.

None applicable

V. Identify the Remedy

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

FFT will supply two (2) Warning stickers that explain the proper function of the power lift accessory using a BATTERY ONLY. The recall fix will also consist of supplying a new "low torque" motor that operates at a lower torque in a low voltage environment. The existing motor will be removed and the new motor will be installed. FFT will provide three (3) new, non-tapered, high-strength shear pins to replace the current tapered shear pins in the two stop bushings and the motor shaft connector. FFT will also supply a new REAR stop bushing that is 2-1/4" long.

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

The remedy component/assembly will utilize the two (2) Warning stickers. The factory-installed powered lift remedy will also consist of the new 2-1/4" long REAR stop bushing and the three (3) new, non-tapered, high-strength shear pins.

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.

FFT will start installing the two (2) Warning stickers on all factory-installed power lift trailers immediately upon the availability. The factory-installed powered lift remedy will also consist of the new 2-1/4" long REAR stop bushing and the three (3) new, non-tapered, high-strength shear pins. Implementation date for all of these changes was 11-1-07.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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.

No other Fleetwood manufacturers need to be notified. All of the recalled trailers were manufactured at the Somerset, PA plant. Copies of subsequent correspondence will be submitted to NHTSA within five (5) days of transmittal. This correspondence will include:

- (II) Letter of Dealer Notification
- (III) Letter of Customer Notification
- (IV) Recall Service Bulletin

VII. Identify the Recall Schedule

9. 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) 366-1767 or by e-mail to RMD.ODI@DOT.GOV.*

Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

Attached Summary

Ref: Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
7-30-07	E-mail notification of potential failure in power lift trailer from Crestview RV dealership in Selma, TX
8-1-07	Initiated power lift test program in FFT laboratory to simulate service operation. Notified BMC to request assistance and input in their test facility. Testing continued at FFT with assistance from BMC through week of 9-17-07. [Test Program: 8-1-07 to 9-17-07. Tested trailers with power lift accessory installed with battery-only power source, battery plus converter, and converter only power source. Measured voltage drops, current loads, impact torque periods, and resultant applied torques with unloaded and loaded roof conditions]
8-9-07	Gathered warranty expense claim information using the FFT Customer Service database to determine the number of claims filed for MY2007 power lift trailers with failed ball-bearing whiffle-tree screw assemblies.
9-21-07	Completed extensive laboratory product testing with BMC and determined the operational usage problem with the power lift configuration trailers that utilize a 110V power source with or without a battery source.
9-26-07	Completed the Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report
1-15-08	Completed the amended Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report.
1-15-08	Completed the Customer and Dealer Notification Letters and sent to the Fleetwood Corporate office for legal review.
1-15-08	Completed the Recall Service Bulletin and sent to the Fleetwood Corporate office for legal review.