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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 2127-004

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report<sup>1</sup>**

07V-464  
(6 pages)

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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: 

9-24-07  
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.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Items Potentially Involved</u>
Arcadia	2007/2008	159 / 10
Sequoia	2007	49
Niagara	2007/2008	435 / 82
Saratoga	2007/2008	51 / 58
Avalon	2007	492 / 146
Williamsburg	2007/2008	71 / 12
Bayside	2007/2008	103 / 14
Utah	2007/2008	109 / 12
Santa Fe	2007/2008	19 / 3
Sun Valley	2007/2008	43 / 7
Cheyenne	2007	33

Total Number of Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1,908

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 344 model year 2008 trailers during the period between May 2006 to Sept 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 system consists of a power lift motor and current limiter controller that is used to operate the FFT lift system. (See enclosed drawings #PR07-1A and #PR07-1B). The FFT lift system consists of a whiffle-tree assembly which includes a ball-bearing nut and screw components. In the power lift configuration, the current limiter controller shuts-down the motor when the operating amp load reaches 35 amps. The system reaches this peak amperage when the roof reaches the top or bottom of its cycle. During standard operation, the ball-bearing nut moves up and down the screw as the power lift turns (drives) the screw. There are four (4) stainless steel cables connected to the ball-bearing nut plate. The movement of the nut plate along the screw raises and lowers the lift posts that in turn raise or lower the trailer roof. Located on the screw assembly are two (2) steel bushings that are pinned to the screw using 3/16" diameter x 1" long high alloy tapered shear pins. These two bushings stop and prevent the ball-bearing nut from moving on the screw; therefore stopping the position of the roof in the up or down position. FFT designed the power lift system 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 occurs 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. FFT considers this defect to be an operational problem and not a mechanical problem. If the system is operated using a 12VDC battery only, the period to shut-down the motor is minimal; the impact torques against either stop bushing are low; and failures do not occur.

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.

The remedy is to educate the end-user (retail customer) on the proper operation and usage of the power lift accessory. FFT will supply two (2) Warning stickers that explain the proper function

of the power lift accessory using a BATTERY ONLY. One sticker will be placed at the rear of the trailer next to the current limiter. The second sticker will be placed next to the 30A power cord outlet. In addition, FFT will send a copy of the Operation Manual that emphasizes the battery-only operation of this trailer accessory.

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.

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. Estimated implementation date scheduled for mid-October 2007.

#### **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.**