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**COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC**

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October 12, 2007

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

07V-483  
(3 pages)

Re: Part # 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC. – Spare Tire Carrier

Dear Mr. Person;

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC has determined that a potential safety defect may exist on certain Coachmen 2006 MY Aurora motorhomes, model numbers 3180DS, 3480DS, 3580TS, and 3650TS. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility from November 9, 2005 through May 2, 2006.

A total of 193 units are potentially affected by this defect.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT**

These motorhomes were built with a spare tire carrier that mounts underneath the vehicle and is affixed to the chassis frame rails. It was discovered that the spare tire carrier that was installed on these vehicles was the incorrect size. These motorhome models use a 22.5" tire mounted on a 19.5" rim that has an inside opening of 6.5". The carrier system that was installed was designed for wheels mounted on a 16" rim with a 4.75" inside opening. Consequently, the carrier may not properly support the spare tire and the potential exists for the tire to disengage from the carrier and fall free. Should the spare tire fall while the vehicle is in motion, an accident may occur.

**DISCOVERY OF THE DEFECT**

Coachmen became aware of the existence of a problem with these units September 19<sup>th</sup>, when we received a call from Mr. Tom Bowman, of NHTSA, following up on a customer complaint NHTSA had recently received. Following Mr. Bowman's phone call, an investigation was conducted, and it was discovered our installation specifications for our 2006 MY Aurora motorhomes was in error. Further investigation determined that this specification error was limited to only that model year and product line.

**PRECLUSION OF POTENTIAL DEFECT**

We reviewed all product lines that use a similar spare tire mounting system and verified that the correct system is in the specification and being installed. For the products affected by this notice, we will provide dealers with the correct spare tire system. The remedy will also include a secondary mechanical back up latch. We will forward NHTSA a copy of our installation instructions for this remedy as soon as they are completed.

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.

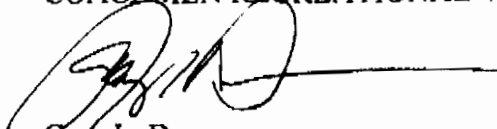
All purchasers and dealerships that receive these units with the potential defect will be advised by mail regarding this problem.

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  
Todd Woelfer – Coachmen Industries



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## COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

October 22, 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 2006 Aurora Motorhomes, model numbers 3180DS, 3480DS, 3580TS and 3650TS. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility from November 9, 2005 through May 2, 2006.

### Safety Defect

On affected vehicles, the spare tire carrier assembly mounted under the rear of the unit is the incorrect model to properly support the spare tire for your vehicle. As a result the potential exists for the spare tire to become detached from the carrier assembly and fall to the road surface. Should the spare tire detach itself from the carrier while the vehicle is in motion, an accident may result. *Do not operate affected vehicles without first removing the spare tire from the carrier assembly.*

### Repairs

Please take your 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 (3) hours to complete.

### 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 Administrator, 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 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

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