



COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

November 9, 2007

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

07V-539  
(3 pages)

Re: Part # 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC. – Slideout Ignition Connector

Dear Mr. Person;

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC has determined that a potential safety defect may exist on certain Coachmen 2008 MY Freelanders 3130, Maverick 313 and Freedom Express 31 Class C Mini-Motorhomes. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility between November 7, 2006 and August 30, 2007.

A total of 395 units are potentially affected by this defect.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT**

Coachmen RV Company has identified an issue involving a 12V wire connector fault tied to the chassis ignition system that inadvertently allows the brake on the slideroom motor to disengage when the ignition is in the "on" or "run" position. As a result, the potential exists for the slideroom to "relax" and possibly move out while in transit if the travel locks provided with the unit are not installed as recommended. Should the slideroom move out while the vehicle is in motion, an accident may occur.

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

Coachmen became aware of the existence of this problem with these units in late September, 2007. The defect was found at our production facility on a unit under construction. Coachmen issued a Service Bulletin on October 2, 2007 addressing this and providing the dealers with instructions to remedy the problem. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, we received a phone call from Mr. Sonny Murianka from NHTSA, inquiring about the specifics of the problem described in that Service Bulletin. Following that call, further investigation by Coachmen determined that, although there have been no reported incidences of this problem from the field, this defect did indeed present a safety issue if the consumer does not use the provided travel locks and therefore warranted a Part 573 filing.

**PRECLUSION OF POTENTIAL DEFECT**

At the time the defect was discovered, all units in Coachmen's possession were inspected and those found defective were remedied. The wiring prints were corrected and provided to our supplier who builds the wiring harnesses for these units. This wiring configuration is unique to the specific models noted. We validated the implementation of the correction with receipt of the new harnesses.

The original Dealer Service Bulletin regarding this defect included the necessary instructions for making the repairs. Attached is a copy of that bulletin for your review. 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

November 19, 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 2008 Freelanders 3130, Mavericks 313 and Freedom Express 31 Class "C" Mini-Motorhomes. These vehicles were manufactured at Coachmen RV's Middlebury, Indiana facility from November 7, 2006 through August 30, 2007.

Safety Defect

On affected vehicles, the 12 Volt slideroom wire connection to the chassis ignition system may be wired incorrectly causing the brake on the slideroom motor to disengage when the ignition is in the "on" or "run" position. As a result, the potential exists for the slideroom to "relax" and possibly move to the out position while in transit if the travel locks provided with the vehicle are not installed as recommended. Should the slideroom extend while the vehicle is in motion, an accident may occur. *Do not operate affected vehicles without first installing the supplied slideroom travel locks.*

Repairs

Please take your unit promptly to your Coachmen dealer. At no charge to you, the Coachmen dealer will properly wire the slideroom motor brake activation system. The necessary repairs should not take more than thirty (30) minutes 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, 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>.

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