

December 18, 2007

**VIA E-MAIL**  
**RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Mr. Daniel Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

07V-584  
(2 pages)

Re: Four Winds International  
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Four Winds has been notified by Freightliner concerning a safety defect involving chassis built between June 13, 2002 and June 13, 2007 inclusive. Freightliner has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has assigned recall number 07V-343 to the Freightliner recall campaign.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain motorhomes manufactured by Four Winds were built with Freightliner chassis that contain the defect.

As more specifically set forth below, Freightliner has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective chassis. Four Winds will provide Freightliner with a list of dealers and owners to assist Freightliner in remedying the defect. Freightliner will be filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The defective chassis supplied by Freightliner have been used on the following motorhomes:

| <u>Make</u> | <u>Model Years</u>           |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Mandalay    | 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 |

These motorhomes were manufactured between September 9, 2003 and September 27, 2007.

The total number of motorhomes subject to this recall campaign is 1174.

- B. Description of Defect. The defective chassis contain certain ZF model 8018 steering gears that may have been assembled with the incorrect recirculating ball spacer potentially allowing the recirculating balls to escape from the recirculating ball circuit resulting in a loss of steering. On affected chassis the operator may notice higher required steering wheel inputs, or the need for more steering wheel adjustments while driving in a straight line in combination with metallic cracking noises prior to a loss of steering. Loss of steering could result in a vehicle crash.

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- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Four Winds received notification from Freightliner on November 21, 2007 that the defect with the chassis exists.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Freightliner in connection with recall campaign 07V-343, Freightliner will correct the chassis if found to be defective. The owners of the motorhomes subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact Freightliner in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed by Freightliner. Freightliner will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in recall campaign 07V-343. Freightliner has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner Notifications. Freightliner will notify the owner's of the motorhomes on behalf of Four Winds. A copy of the owner's notification letter will be forwarded shortly for approval.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Freightliner will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with recall campaign 07V-343. Because the information included by Freightliner in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Four Winds motorhomes subject to this recall campaign, Four Winds will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. Campaign Number. Four Winds does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Four Winds will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Four Winds with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Four Winds in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact me at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick  
Thor Industries, Standards Compliance Manager