



U.S. Department
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

April 28, 2008

MR. GARY DUNCAN
VICE PRESIDENT, ENGINEERING SERVICES
COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY
423 NORTH MAIN STREET
MIDDLEBURY IN 46540

NVS-215paw
08V-193

Subject: POWER STEERING FILTER PLUGS/FREIGHTLINER

Dear MR. DUNCAN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below, for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

COACHMEN/CROSS COUNTRY/2005-2007
COACHMEN/CROSS COUNTRY SE/2005-2006
COACHMEN/SPORTSCOACH ELITE/2005-2007
COACHMEN/SPORTSCOACH ENCORE/2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-193

Mfg's Report Date: April 25, 2008

Components: STEERING:HYDRAULIC POWER ASSIST SYSTEM

Potential Number of Units Affected: 961

Summary:

COACHMEN IS RECALLING 961 MY 2005-2007 CROSS COUNTRY, SPORTSCOACH ELITE, MY 2005-2006 CROSS COUNTRY SE, AND MY 2006 SPORTSCOACH ENCORE CLASS A MOTOR HOMES BUILT USING INLINE POWER STEERING FILTERS, PART NO. 14-16829-000. THE FILTER CAN PLUG DUE TO FAILURE OF THE SCREEN ADHESION TO THE FILTER HOUSING CAUSING A RISE IN RETURN LINE PRESSURE. THIS CAN LEAD TO HOSE SEPARATION FROM THE FILTER OR STEERING GEAR FITTING RESULTING IN A SUDDEN LOSS OF STEERING FLUID AND POWER ASSIST.

Consequence:

SUDDEN LOSS OF STEERING ASSIST WITHOUT WARNING INVOLVING A MOTOR HOME COULD BE A PROBLEM FOR CERTAIN DRIVERS INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

COACHMEN IS WORKING WITH FREIGHTLINER TO REPLACE THE AFFECTED FILTERS WITH A LARGER FILTER (PLEASE SEE 07V570). OWNERS MAY CONTACT FREIGHTLINER AT 1-800-547-0712 OR COACHMEN AT 1-574-825-5821.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Federal law requires that the vehicle manufacturer notify owners, dealers and distributors about the defect and offer a free remedy as well as other things. Also, manufacturers are required to submit a draft of their owner notification letter to the Recall Management Division at least 5 days prior to mailing it to owners, and to submit a representative copy of any communication about the recall that is sent to more than one owner, dealer or distributor within 5 days of mailing it. The owner notification must be mailed to current registered owners using State motor vehicle registration records, or, if State registration records fail to yield a usable address, to the most recent owner known to the manufacturer. The vehicle manufacturers must notify their dealers even though they may not be involved in this recall, since owners may contact them for information.

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at Patricia.wallace@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person", written in a cursive style.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement