



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 26, 2008

MR. MICHAEL J. WOLTER
MANAGER, LEGAL DEPARTMENT
SKYLINE CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 743
ELKHART IN 46515-0743

NVS-215dgl
08V-399

Subject: AXLE BOLT INSTALLATION

Dear MR. WOLTER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Skyline Corporation'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:

SKYLINE/FREESTYLE/2007-2008
SKYLINE/RAMPAGE/2007-2008
SKYLINE/TRAILRIDER/2007-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-399

Mfg's Report Date: August 1, 2008

Components: POWER TRAIN: AXLE ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 83

Summary:

SKYLINE IS RECALLING 83 MY 2007-2008 FREESTYLE, RAMPAGE AND TRAILRIDER MODEL 281 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES. THESE VEHICLES MAY HAVE HAD THE AXLE ATTACHING BOLTS THAT ATTACH THE AXLES TO THE CHASSIS, IMPROPERLY INSTALLED. THE CLEARANCE BETWEEN THE TIRES AND THESE ATTACHING BOLTS ON THIS MODEL REQUIRE THAT THE HEAD OF THE ATTACHING BOLT BE INSTALLED ON THE TIRE SIDE OF THE AXLE HANGERS AND/OR SHACKLES.

Consequence:

DRIVERS MAY EXPERIENCE TIRE DAMAGE AND CAN CAUSE OR CONTRIBUTE TO PREMATURE TIRE FAILURE THAT COULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE AXLE ATTACHING BOLTS FOR CORRECT INSTALLATION AND THE BACK SIDE OF THE TIRES FOR DAMAGE FROM IMPROPERLY INSTALLED AXLE BOLTS. DEALERS WILL REMOVE AND REINSTALL THE AXLE MOUNTING BOLTS WITH THE CORRECT ORIENTATION AND REPLACE DAMAGED TIRES FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING AUGUST 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT SKYLINE AT 1-800-733-4250.

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.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it does not quite meet all the requirements of Part 577.

Second paragraph should read: "Skyline Corporation, on behalf of its subsidiary manufacturing center in Hemet California, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2007 & 2008 model year Freestyle, Rampage and Trailrider Model 281 recreational vehicles manufactured between June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2008. A statement that there is **no risk of vehicle crash or injury** can be used. This statement implies that the defect **may not exist** on any of the vehicles and is considered to be a disclaimer specifically prohibited by Part 577.8(a).

Please revise your owner letters to include the following updated NHTSA hotline information: "...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>."

Your sample envelope meets the requirements of Part 577.

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

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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

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 be 'G. Person', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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