



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 26, 2008

MR. JEFFREY C. SATOSKI
COMPLIANCE ENGINEER
GULF STREAM COACH, INC.
PO BOX 1005
NAPPANEE, IN 46550

NVS-215paw
08V-418

SUBJECT: STEERING GEAR SPACER/FREIGHTLINER/ZF

DEAR MR. SATOSKI:

This letter serves to acknowledge Gulf Stream Coach, Inc.'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:

GULF STREAM/FRIENDSHIP/2005, 2008-2009
GULF STREAM/SCENIC CRUISER/2005, 2008-2009
GULF STREAM/TOURMASTER/2005, 2008-2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-418

Mfg's Report Date: August 8, 2008

Components: STEERING: GEAR BOX

Potential Number of Units Affected: 28

Summary:

GULF STREAM IS RECALLING 38 MY 2005, 2008 AND 2009 FRIENDSHIP, SCENIC CRUISER, AND TOURMASTER RECREATIONAL VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH ZF MODEL 8018 STEERING GEARS MAY HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED WITH THE INCORRECT RECIRCULATING BALL SPACER. THIS COULD POTENTIALLY ALLOW THE RECIRCULATING BALLS TO ESCAPE FROM THE RECIRCULATING BALL CIRCUIT RESULTING IN A LOSS OF STEERING.

Consequence:

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.

Remedy:

GULF STREAM IS WORKING WITH DAIMLER TRUCKS TO HAVE THE STEERING GEAR REPLACED. OWNERS MAY CONTACT DAIMLER TRUCKS AT 1-800-547-0712 OR GULF STREAM AT 1-574-773-7761.

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 except for the following items:

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.

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 your report, Daimler Trucks will be handling the remedy and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Daimler Trucks' campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

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