



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*November 19, 2008*

MR. RYAN A. LEHMAN  
CODES AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER  
NEWMAR CORPORATION  
355 N. DELAWARE ST.  
NAPPANEE, IN 46550

NVS-215dgl  
08V-596

SUBJECT: HITCH FRACTURES/SPARTAN/PUTNAM

DEAR MR. LEHMAN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Newmar 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:**

NEWMAR/ALL STAR MID-ENGINE/2007-2009  
NEWMAR/DUTCH AIRE DIESEL PUSHER/2009  
NEWMAR/DUTCH STAR DIESEL PUSHER/2007-2009  
NEWMAR/KOUNTRY STAR DIESEL PUSHE/2007-2008  
NEWMAR/MOUNTAIN AIRE DIESEL PUSH/2007  
NEWMAR/VENTANA DIESEL PUSHER/2009

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08V-596

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 17, 2008

**Components:** TRAILER HITCHES

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 913

**Summary:**

NEWMAR IS RECALLING 913 MY 2007-2009 ALL STAR ME, DUTCH STAR DP, MY 2007-2008 KOUNTRY STAR DP, MY 2007 MOUNTAIN AIRE DP, AND MY 2009 DUTCH AIRE DP AND VENTANA DP MOTOR HOMES BUILT ON SPARTAN CHASSIS AND EQUIPPED WITH PUTNAM HITCHES. AFTER SOME PERIOD OF USE, CERTAIN TRAILER HITCHES MAY DEVELOP STRESS FRACTURES DUE TO SHARP RADII AND/OR TOOL MARKING.

**Consequence:**

FRACTURES IN THE SUSPECT HITCHES MAY RESULT IN HITCH SEPARATION, POTENTIALLY RESULTING IN INJURY AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

**Remedy:**

NEWMAR IS WORKING WITH SPARTAN WHO WILL REPLACE THE TRAILER HITCH FREE OF CHARGE (PLEASE SEE 08V567). OWNERS MAY CONTACT SPARTAN AT 1-517-543-6400 OR NEWMAR AT 1-574-773-7791.

**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.

Notification to owners as required by 49 CFR Part 577 must be sent by the vehicle manufacturer(s). Therefore, you are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. 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).

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

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.

Newmar must file a sample of the envelope which you intend to use to mail the recall notice to owners. The words "SAFETY", "RECALL", "NOTICE" in any order must be printed on the envelope in larger font than the customers name and address.

As stated in your report, Spartan will be handling the owner notification, 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 Spartan's 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](mailto:Patricia.wallace@dot.gov), [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto: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