



COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

April 25, 2008

Director, Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

08V-192  
(2 pges)

Re: Part # 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC. – Freightliner Custom Chassis Recall Campaign # 07V-306

Dear Mr. Person:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, this correspondence is to serve as our notification to NHTSA of our acknowledgement of a recall being conducted by one of our component suppliers, Freightliner Custom Chassis (Freightliner) concerning a potential safety defect in some of their motorhome chassis supplied to Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC (Coachmen). The affected chassis were subsequently used in the build of certain Coachmen motorhomes.

Freightliner informed Coachmen that we received a total of 145 chassis affected by their recall campaign.

These chassis were used by Coachmen to build certain 2007 MY Coachmen Sportscoach Encore, Cross Country and Pathfinder Class A motorhomes, and 2008 MY Coachmen Sportscoach Encore and Pathfinder Class A motorhomes. These motorhomes were manufactured by Coachmen between March, 2007 and November, 2007.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT**

Freightliner's recall notice describes the defect as follows:

“During front axle assembly, the fasteners that attach the steering arm or the tie rod arms to the spindle may have been over or under tightened. Incorrectly tightened fasteners may fatigue and fracture, resulting in a possible vehicle crash without prior warning.”

#### **DISCOVERY OF THE DEFECT**

Coachmen became aware of the existence of this problem when we received a copy of Freightliner's recall owner notification letter in January, 2008. Freightliner provided Coachmen with a list of the affected chassis VIN's sold to Coachmen.

**PRECLUSION OF POTENTIAL DEFECT**

The complete list of affected Coachmen vehicles and owner information was provided to Freightliner Corporation on January 17, 2008 for their recall campaign. We understand that since Freightliner Corporation is conducting the recall campaign, they will be forwarding all further required information to NHTSA.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please advise.

Very Truly Yours,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC.



Gary L. Duncan

Cc: Rick Lavers – Coachmen Industries  
Michael Terlep, Jr. – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company LLC  
Todd Woelfer – Coachmen Industries