

May 1, 2008

Dan Smith  
Associate Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590



08V-213  
(3 pages)

**Re: Defect Information Notice FL-517, Power Steering Filter Plugs**

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Forest River Inc. reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 38 Charleston Motor Homes built on Freightliner XC-Motor Home chassis for a defect in vehicles equipped with certain power steering filters.

Attached is Forest River's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Ely

**Defect Information Report**  
**(Section 573.6)**

May 1, 2008

**(c)(2) Manufacturer:** Forest River, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3030  
Elkhart, Indiana 46515-3030  
(574) 389-4600

**Brands:** Charleston

**(c)(2) Vehicles identification:**

**Models affected:**

Charleston: 400TS, 400QS, 410DST, 410DST-4, 410QS, and 410QS-4

**Model Years:** 2006 to 2007

**Manufacture Dates:** April 25, 2005 to May 30, 2006

**Basis for Determining Population:** All models built on Freightliner XC-Motor home chassis using inline power steering filter p/n 14-16829-000.

**Component Manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacture:** Not Applicable

**(c)(3) Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected in Canada:** Approximately 38 Motor Homes

**(c)(4) Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect:** 100%

**(c)(5) Description of the Defect:** The inline power steering filter can plug due to failure of the screen adhesion to the filter housing causing a rise in return line pressure potentially leading to hose separation from the filter or steering gear fitting resulting in a sudden loss of steering fluid and power assist

**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of Safety Risk:** Sudden loss of steering assist without warning involving a motor home could be a problem for certain drivers and could lead to a vehicle crash.

**(c)(6) Chronology of Principle Events:**

April 2006, inline filter identified as potential cause of steering return line leaks and separations. May 2006 inline filter removed from production.

**(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data:** Not applicable

**(c)(8) Remedial program:**

Affected filters will be replaced with a larger filter. Repairs will be performed by Freightliner dealerships and Direct Warranty customers, i.e., customers approved by Freightliner to do their own warranty repairs. Customer notification will be done Freightliner, by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected.

**Estimated Dealer Notification Date:** Freightliner will send out letters to the Dealers on February 1, 2008

**Estimated Owner Notification Date:** Freightliner will send out letters to the Owners by first class mail using Freightliner records to determine the customers affected on February 1, 2008

**Reimbursement Plan:** Copies will be submitted when available.

**(c)(9) Communication sent to dealers and owners:** Freightliner will be contacting all dealers and owners. A copy of Freightliners dealer letter will be submitted when available.

**(c)(10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter:** Freightliner is sending the owner notification letter. A copy of Freightliners owner notification letter will be submitted when available.

**(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number:** TBD (Reference Freightliner campaign number FL-517)