



Skyline Corporation  
P.O. Box 743 (46515-0743)  
2520 Bypass Road  
Elkhart, Indiana 46514-1584  
(574) 294-6521

**CERTIFIED MAIL 7004 2510 0007 5743 3732**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 1, 2008

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Mail Code NVS-215  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED  
2008 AUGUST 14 – 11:30 AM  
OFFICE OF RECALL  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

08V-399  
(7 Pages)

**Re: Travel Trailer Recall for Axle Bolt Installation**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Skyline Corporation, on behalf of its subsidiary manufacturing facility in Hemet California, has determined that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety may exist in certain recreational vehicles as described below.

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.5(c), Skyline hereby submits the following information:

1. Name of Manufacturer:

Skyline Homes, Inc., which is a wholly-owned subsidiaries of Skyline Corporation. Skyline Corporation's mailing address is PO Box 743 Elkhart, IN 46515.

2. Vehicles Involved:

The vehicles covered by this recall are model year 2007 and 2008 Model 281 "Freestyle," "Rampage" and "TrailRider" brand travel trailers.

The vehicles were manufactured between June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2008.

3. Number of Vehicles:

The total number of vehicles covered by this recall is 83.

4. Approximate Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:

Skyline Corporation is aware of two vehicles that contain the defect. We believe that no others contain the defect, however, Skyline cannot determine without inspecting the travel trailers.

*BRINGING AMERICA HOME. BRINGING AMERICA FUN.*

5. Description of Defect:

Certain 2007 & 2008 model year Freestyle, Rampage and TrailRider Model 281 recreational 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. We are currently aware of at least two vehicles where the bolts were installed from the wrong side (with the nut end of the bolt facing the tire). One of the two vehicles experienced tire damage.

6. Chronological Summary of Events Leading to this Determination:

Skyline learned of this defect after inspecting the cause of tire damage on a unit, and subsequent inspection of available units to determine if the condition was repeated. Skyline is not aware of any injuries or other incidents as a result of this condition.

7. Program for Remedying the Defect:


Skyline plans to send a recall notice to all owners or dealers with instructions for self inspection or with information to have a dealer perform an inspection to verify that the axle attachment bolts are properly installed. If the attachment bolts are not properly installed, owners will be instructed on how to obtain repair service. Skyline will pay dealers to perform the repair work to correct the defect. Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6(c)(8)(i) and 573.13, owners will be advised that Skyline will reimburse them if they have incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the axle bolt attachment defect prior to their receipt of the notification. Skyline recognizes that as a final stage vehicle manufacturer it remains responsible for the successful completion of the recall campaign.

8. Recall Notice:

Attached please find a copy of the proposed owner and dealer notifications, the mailing envelope and the reply card to be returned for self inspections performed that verify the proper axle bolt attachment and to inform of a new owner. Skyline has identified the addresses of all owners and will provide quarterly reports of the recall completion.

Your prompt approval of Skyline's recall is requested. I can be reached by telephone at 574-294-6521 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm EST. My FAX number is 574-522-5257.

Sincerely,

  
Michael J. Wolter  
Manager, Legal Department

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Subject: Skyline Axle Attachment Bolt Recall

Dear Valued Skyline Travel Trailer Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

### REASON FOR THIS RECALL

Skyline Corporation on behalf of its subsidiary manufacturing center in Hemet California has determined that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety may exist in certain 2007 & 2008 model year Freestyle, Rampage and TrailRider Model 281 recreational vehicles manufactured between June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2008.

#### **The Problem:**

Specifically, certain 2007 & 2008 model year Freestyle, Rampage and TrailRider Model 281 recreational 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. We are currently aware of at least two vehicles where the bolts were installed from the wrong side. One of the two vehicles experienced tire damage.

#### **Affected Vehicle Models:**

The vehicles covered by this recall are model years 2007 and 2008 Freestyle, Rampage and TrailRider Model 281 recreational vehicles.

While it is our belief only a small number of the affected vehicles may have had the bolts improperly installed, it is critical that your vehicle be inspected to make sure the bolts are properly installed and to ensure there is no tire damage. You may feel comfortable making the inspection yourself. If so, the following pictures show the incorrect and correct installation of the bolt.



Incorrect – Bolt Nut on Tire Side



Correct – Bolt Head on Tire Side

If any one of the axle attaching bolts are installed improperly (all 14 must be inspected), the vehicle must be returned to your dealer for corrective action. If you are at all unsure of whether the axle attaching bolts are correctly installed you should have the dealer make the inspection for you.

### **WHAT WE WILL DO**

Skyline will provide at no charge to the customer:

- Visual inspection of axle attaching bolts for correct installation and visual inspection of the back side of the tires for damage from improperly installed axle bolts.
- Removal and re-installation of axle mounting bolts with the correct orientation.
- Replacement of tires damaged by an improperly installed axle mounting bolt.

### **WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**

Since this defect affects motor vehicle safety, it is recommended that you immediately make a visual inspection of the axle attaching bolts on your vehicle and/or make an appointment with your selling dealer or other authorized Skyline dealer to have your vehicle inspected. In either case compare the installation of the bolts on your vehicle to the pictures above. If it appears any of the bolts are incorrectly installed, inspect the back side of the tires at a location near these bolts to see if any tire damage has occurred. If you detect tire damage please call the Skyline factory at (800) 733-4250 for further assistance. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE YOUR VEHICLE WITH DAMAGED TIRES!**

At the time of your appointment the dealer will perform the required inspection and make any necessary repair. The total length of time your vehicle will be out of service will depend on the dealer's work schedule at the time of the repairs.

If you have had this concern corrected previously, you may be eligible for reimbursement of your cost for the repair. For more information regarding this recall contact (800) 733-4250.

When you deliver your travel trailer for repairs, your dealer will complete a Skyline Repair Order. Upon completion of the inspection, and if necessary the subsequent repair, please sign the Skyline Repair Order and fill out the enclosed, self-addressed postage-paid Vehicle Information Update Card and return it to Skyline. If you feel confident you can make the inspection your self and conclude there is no defect, please fill out the self-addressed Vehicle Information Update Card and return it to Skyline.

#### **If You No Longer Own This Recreational Vehicle:**

If you have changed your address or sold the travel trailer, please take a moment to provide the name and address of the person or dealership you sold it to on the enclosed Vehicle Information Update Card, and return it to Skyline. That way we can update our records, and notify the new owner using the information you provide.

***Federal regulation requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.***

If you are unable to obtain the specified inspection and/or repair promptly and without charge, please contact (800) 733-4250.

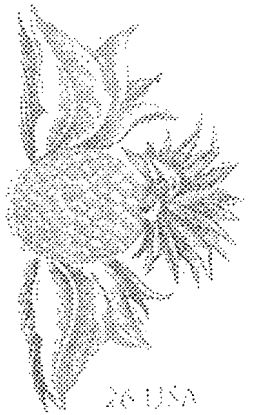
If the repair facility fails or is unable to rework this noncompliance without charge and within a reasonable time, please contact us at the number provided above so we can attempt to resolve the problem. You may also submit a written complaint to:

**Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590**

Your safety and satisfaction with your Skyline product are important to us and we regret any inconvenience to you.

Sincerely,

Skyline Corporation



USA 28

**Skyline Corporation**  
**Attn: Recall Administrator**  
**P.O. Box 743**  
**Elkhart, IN 46515**

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**Vehicle Information Update Card  
Axle Attachment Bolt Recall  
Serial No: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please Complete the Following and Return**

- Inspected by Owner; Bolts Properly Installed
- Inspected by Dealer/Repair Facility:

- Bolts Properly Installed
- or
- Bolt Repair Performed on \_\_\_\_\_

If you no longer own the RY, please provide name and address of new owner: \_\_\_\_\_

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