



Mr. George Person
Chief, Recall Management Office
National Highway Traffic Safety Adm.
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

08V-484
(6 pages)

18 September 2008

Dear Mr. Person:

Country Coach LLC has decided that a safety defect exists in 238 Model Year 2006 through 2008 Magna and Affinity motor homes manufactured between February 2005 and August 2007. The potential for the safety defect has been determined as the loss of power steering hydraulic assist in those identified motor vehicles manufactured with a Cummins ISX, 14.9L, 600HP engine, a Chelsa-Parker Power Take-Off, part number 267XBF JP-M3RA and Sauer Danfoss Power Steering Pump, part number 550135762200150.

Loss of power steering assist can create an unsafe driving condition which could result in a motor vehicle crash.

To date, there have been no reports of accidents caused by the conditions as stated above in any of the identified motor homes included in this proposed recall. The repair for this safety defect is the replacement of the Fan Drive Hydraulic Pump and the transmission mounted dry spline Power Take-Off with a wet spline Power Take-Off and relocation of the engine Power Steering Pump to the engine Power Steering Mechanical Drive Pad. Parts necessary to complete this safety recall will not be available until mid-November 2008. In the interim, Country Coach will immediately notify all owners of the affected motor homes of this recall with instructions that should they experience loss of power steering or a severe reduction in their ability to steer the motor home that they are to immediately contact the Country Coach Service Center.

During a phone conversation held on September 15, 2008, between Richard Boyd and Gary Obermire, Mr. Boyd stated that the submission of this Part 573 Safety Recall of the subject coaches with power steering failures satisfies Country Coach's required response to PE08-046.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 541-998-3720, extension 8154.

Sincerely,

David Diamond
Director, R&D and Compliance Administration
Country Coach, LLC

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2008 SEP 22 10:35 AM

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Enclosure:

573 Non-Compliance Information Report

THE WORLD'S FINEST MOTORCOACHES

135 East First Avenue | PO Box 400 | Junction City, OR 97448

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Non Compliance Information Report Pursuant to 49 CFR part 573

On 15 September 2008, Country Coach, LLC decided a vehicle safety defect exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

This report was prepared and submitted on 18 September 2008.

The information required by your regulations follows.

1. 573.5 (c) (1) Manufacturer's name and address.

Country Coach, LLC
135 East First Ave.
P.O. Box 400
Junction City, OR 97448

2. 573.5 (c) (2) Equipment involved in this notification:

Model Year: 2006 Magna Motor Home manufactured from February 2005 through November 2005

VIN Range: 4U7C9FT1061105123 – 4U7C9FT1961105316

Vehicle Type: MPV

Bodystyle: Class A Motor Home

Model Year: 2006 Magna Motor Home manufactured from November 2005 through February 2006

VIN Range: 4U7C9FT1061080000 – 4U7C9EZ1X61080023

Vehicle Type: MPV

Bodystyle: Class A Motor Home

Model Year: 2007 Magna Motor Home manufactured from February 2006 through March 2007

VIN Range: 4U7C9FT1171080024 – 4U7C9FT1971080126

Vehicle Type: MPV

Bodystyle: Class A Motor Home

Model Year: 2008 Magna Motor Home manufactured from March 2007 through August 2007

VIN Range: 4U7C9FT1681080117 – 4U7C9DT1181080160

Vehicle Type: MPV

Bodystyle: Class A Motor Home

Model Year: 2006 Affinity Motor Homes manufactured from May 2005 – November 2005

VIN Range: 4U7D9FT1561104943 – 4U7D9FT1061105319

Vehicle Type: MPV

Bodystyle: Class A Motor Home

Model Year: 2006 Affinity Motor Homes manufactured from December 2005 – February 2006

VIN Range: 4U7D9FT1061090000 – 4U7D9FT1561090011

Vehicle Type: MPV

Bodystyle: Class A Motor Home

Model Year: 2007 Affinity Motor Homes manufactured from February 2006 – February 2007

VIN Range: 4U7D9FT1571090012 – 4U7D9FM1971090089

Vehicle Type: MPV

Bodystyle: Class A Motor Home

Model Year: 2008 Affinity Motor Homes manufactured from February 2007– August 2007

VIN Range: 4U7D9FT1181090056 – 4U7D9FT1981090080

Vehicle Type: MPV

Bodystyle: Class A Motor Home

3. 573.5 (c) (3) Total number of items of equipment:

A total of 238 motor homes are involved all of which are consumer owned:

Model Year 2006 – 18 Affinity Motor Homes

Model Year 2007 – 46 Affinity Motor Homes

Model Year 2008 – 19 Affinity Motor Homes

Model Year 2006 – 32 Magna Motor Homes

Model Year 2007 – 86 Magna Motor Homes

Model Year 2008 – 37 Magna Motor Homes

4. **573.5 (c) (4) Approximate percentage of equipment estimated to actually contain the safety defect/non-compliance:**

100% of the motor homes identified in items 2 and 3 above, have the potential safety defect.

5. **573.5 (c) (5) Description of the safety defect/non-compliance:**

Country Coach LLC has determined that certain Magna and Affinity motor homes manufactured between May 2005 and August 2007, and as identified in items 2 and 3, when manufactured with a Cummins ISX, 14.9L, 600HP engine, a Chelsa-Parker Power Take-Off, part number 267XBF JP-M3RA and Sauer Danfoss Power Steering Pump, part number 550135762200150, have the potential safety defect of the loss of Power Steering Hydraulic assist.

Detailed description of safety defect/non-compliance:

The safety defect is the result of "fretting corrosion" between the male and female spline coupling of both the Power Take Off assembly and the Fan Drive Hydraulic Pump. As the fretting corrosion worsens the coupling will no longer transmit torque to the fan drive pump. Since the power steering pump is coupled to the fan drive pump it also loses drive torque and therefore provides no steering assist.

Loss of power steering assist can create an unsafe driving condition which could result in a motor vehicle crash.

6. **Chronological summary of events leading to this determination:**

05 January 2008

Country Coach (CC) Engineering was requested to review a customer's complaint of poor steering on CC VIN 4U7C9FT1571080110. Test drive of the customer's unit revealed the following:

Steering Behavior Observations

1. Wheels would not fully turn to axle stops in either direction
2. Power steering psi/flow test indicated below specification for power steering pump performance
3. Test drive indicated difficult steering and insufficient wheel cut

15 May 2008

Owner of CC VIN 4U7D9FT1371090039 reports loss of power steering to CC Service Call Center

23 May 2008

Owner of CC VIN 4U7D9FT1671090049 reports loss of power steering to CC Service Call Center

26 May 2008

CC Engineering receives email from owner of CC VIN 4U7D9FT1671090049 stating unit was in-op due to failure of the PTO splines resulting in loss of power steering.

26 June 2008

CC Engineering conducts test drive of stock unit with power steering intentionally disabled.

Steering Behavior Observations

1. Unit was successfully driven on a twenty mile test drive. Test drive included numerous lane changing events and full right and left turns
2. Steering was more difficult than normal due to no power steering assist
3. Negotiating ninety degree turns required a wider than normal turning arc

30 June 2008

CC informed of two complaints submitted by CC owners to NHTSA regarding steering issues (ODI ID Number: VOQ 10230479 and ODI ID Number: VOQ 10234742)

31 July 2008

CC receives PE08-046, Subject: Loss of Power Steering Assist in Model Years 2007 and 2008 Affinity Model Country Coach Vehicles.

Collection of data begins on subject coaches as requested by PE.

15 September 2008

During a telephone conference between Gary Obermire, Country Coach, LLC, Senior Vice President, Operations and Richard Boyd, Chief, Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicle Division, ODI, it was disclosed by Mr. Obermire that as information was being collected in support of PE08-046, it had become evident there was a safety defect with the power steering on the subject coaches as configured in Item #5 above. CC informs NHTSA of their decision to submit Part 573 to initiate safety recall on subject coaches.

7. 573.5 (c)(8) Description of proposed remedy:

Country Coach has determined that the repair for this safety defect is the replacement of the Fan Drive Hydraulic Pump and the transmission mounted dry spline Power Take-Off with a wet spline Power Take-Off and relocation of the engine Power Steering Pump to the engine Power Steering Mechanical Drive Pad.

It is estimated that 4.0 hours of labor will be required for this repair. The repairs will be performed at no cost to the owner.

8. Program for Remedy Campaign:

Parts necessary to complete this safety recall will not be available until mid-November 2008. Country Coach will immediately notify all owners of the affected motor homes of this recall with instructions that should they experience loss of power steering or a severe reduction in their ability to steer the motor home that they are to immediately contact the Country Coach Service Center. The Owner Safety Defect Notification as well as the Dealer Vehicle Safety Non Compliance Service Bulletin will be mailed on or before 29 September 2008. Upon confirmation of parts availability, this Part 573 will be amended and the affected motor home owners notified. All mailings will be by First Class Mail and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.