

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

On November 6, 2004, Forest River Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. N/A) 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 Responsibility and Reports**.

Date this report was prepared: November 7, 2008

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Forest River Inc.

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

DAN EVANS, CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER

Telephone Number: 574-206-7605 Fax No.: 574-206-9450

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

STEVE BARBOUR
ENGINEERING MANAGER - GEORGETOWN

Signed:

RECEIVED
2008 DECEMBER 16 - 9:00 AM
OFFICE OF RECALL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

[Signature]

¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

GTA323DS GTA357GS GTA37MTS
GTA32LOS GTA359TS GTA37STS
GTA342OS GTA370TS GTA378TS
GTA345TS GTA372OS GTA37ITS

Make(s): Georgetown Model Years Involved: 2006-2008 Model(s):

Production Dates: Beginning: 8-16-06 Ending: 10-29-08

VIN Range: Beginning: 4x4MGT P217 Ending: 4x4MGT L220

Vehicle Type: Motorhome Bodystyle: Class A

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

VEHICLES BEING RECALLED HAVE SIDEWALLS WHICH STOP AT THE UNIT'S FLOORLINE
WITH BAGGAGE DOORS ATTACHED TO STEEL SUBSTRUCTURE

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

44 1/2 %

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Vehicles	Year	Number of
Model <u>GEORGETOWN</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>	Potentially
<u>Involved</u>	<u>1003</u>	

863 OF THE MOTORHOMES ARE DOMESTIC

140 OF THE MOTORHOMES HAVE BEEN SOLD IN CANADA

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1003

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH TOM BANNAN @ NHTSA, 1 YEAR PRIOR
TO THE VEHICLE REPAIRS IN UOQ 10243474 IS CONSISTENT
TO SATISFY THE SCOPE OF THE ISSUE.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

BELOW SLEEPER ROOMS, DIRECTLY ABOVE THE BAGGAGE DOORS, THE
SLEEPER BOTTOM TUBE (SBT) IS FASTENED TO THE CHASSIS STRUCTURE.
THE SBT IS A $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{8}$ " THICK ALUMINUM ANGLE USED AS A TRIM
APiece BETWEEN THE SLEEPER ROOM AND BAGGAGE DOORS

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

THERE HAS BEEN A LACK OF FASTENERS INSTALLED TO PROPERLY SECURE
THE SBT TO THE CHASSIS STRUCTURE.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

IF THE FASTENERS, WHICH ARE PRESENT TO HOLD THE SBT, SHEAR OFF, THE
SBT COULD (BECOME UNATTACHED) FROM THE VEHICLE AND POSSIBLY STRIKE
ANOTHER VEHICLE OR STATIONARY OBJECT.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

THE SBT MAY APPEAR TO PROTRUDE FROM THE VERTICAL BODY LINE
OF THE BAGGAGE DOORS AND SIDEWALL.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

Sep. 30, 08 - VOG 10243474 SENT FROM NHTSA TO Forest River

Oct. 8, 08 - Forest River TALKS w/ NHTSA REGARDING VOG

OCT. 14, 08 - Forest River BEGAN A SAMPLING PROGRAM OF
MOTORHOMES ON DEALERS LOTS LOOKING FOR DEFECTS

Nov. 5, 08 - RECEIVED PART 573 REPORTS TO SUMMIT TO NHTSA

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

PLEASE SEE Forest River CUSTOMER LETTER.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

Remedying the situation requires that more fasteners be installed. The distance between fasteners should not exceed 18".

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

With the SBT properly secured, the additional fasteners heads will be visible in the space between the SBT and the top of the baggage doors.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The production remedy was identical to the recall remedy.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.

FOREST RIVER, INC.

55135 C.R. 1 • Elkhart, IN 46514 • (574) 206-7600 • Fax (574) 206-9450

Consumer

Address

Vin #

Dear Customer:

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

Forest River has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2007 and 2008 Georgetown models. We believe that you currently have or have previously owned one of these units. For this reason we ask that you arrange for your servicing dealer to correct your vehicle without delay. The service and required parts will be provided free of charge.

We apologize for this situation and with your help will resolve any issue that may exist with your recreational vehicle. Our commitment is, with the help of our authorized dealers, to provide you with the highest level of service and support possible.

The issue found in affected vehicles pertains to a specific aluminum baggage door trim has loosened and is able to detach from the vehicle. In the unlikely event the aluminum baggage door trim detaches, it may cause personal injury to persons outside the vehicle or property damage.

Effective, immediately, a recall bulletin with instructions will be distributed to your selling dealer. The repair consists of resealing the trim with additional fasteners. All you have to do is contact your dealer to set up an appointment to have this recall performed on your recreational vehicle. The time needed to perform this recall is less than one day. However, each dealer differs in scheduling and facilities, so your dealer may need your recreational vehicle for a longer time period.

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

If you had this repair performed before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost by contacting Forest River Customer Service.

If you have difficulty getting your recreational vehicle repaired promptly and without charge, please contact your dealers service manager. If you still have concerns or need to be directed to a different dealership, please contact Forest River Customer Service at 574-206-7600. Our office hours are: Monday – Friday, 8AM – 5PM, Eastern Time. We are closed on Saturday.

Thank you for your patience and support in helping us keep you safe.

Sincerely,

Forest River Inc.