

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defects and Noncompliance Report ⁽¹⁾

On 8/25, 2009, Forest River Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 567) 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.

Date this report was prepared: 08/28/2009

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. Sierra/Sandpiper Division

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

William G. Conway Jr. Chief Corporate Engineer

Telephone Number: 574-534-6913 Fax No.: 574-343-5967

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

William G. Conway Jr.

Chief Corporate Engineer _____

Signed:

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:

Sierra/Sandpiper towable recreational vehicles
Brochure is enclosed.

Make(s): Sierra/Sandpiper **Model Years Involved:** 2010 **Model(s):** Various

Production Dates: Beginning: Ending: 4-8-2009 to 8-5-2009

VIN Range: Beginning: _4X4FSAF24AJ024486 **Ending:**
4X4TSER28AJ034752_____

Vehicle Type: Bodystyle: Recreational Travel Trailer and recreational Fifth Wheel Trailer

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: On the Tire Loading Information Placard and The Cargo Carrying Capacity placard the CCC is equal to the GVWR except for the Fifth Wheel Trailers. There is a preloaded weight for the weight of the tripod support frame that the hitch plate rests on while being weighed.

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.

53% of the units built in the time period between April 8, 2009 and August 5, 2009 in the production plant.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance. 160 units

Number of Vehicles

Model Year Potentially Involved 2010

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 160

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 53%

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: All weights of each VIN number is stored in a data base. The units that had a scaled weight of 0 or a negative number were identified as not being weighed.

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.

The Tire and Loading Information placard and the Cargo Carrying Capacity Placard indicates the CCC to be equal to or slightly less than the full GVWR.

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

The error was due to the failure of an employee to actually weigh the unit.

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

The unit may be overloaded and cause tire failure which may lead to a crash and bodily injury or death.

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

It is an information correction

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.

The defect was discovered during a routine inspection audit.

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.

Visual inspection of the labels.

V. Identify the Remedy

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

Forest River, Inc. will contact the dealer or retail customer and ask them to have their units weighed (completely unloaded and dry) at a scale that can certify the weight. Upon receipt of the certified weight Forest River will send a corrected Cargo carrying Capacity Placard and Load Information Placard to the dealer or retail customer of each unit. They can be placed over the incorrect label after cleaning the surface with Alcohol.

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

New labels with the correct Cargo carrying Capacity indicated.

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 employee was terminated for neglect. The scale weighing system is in the process of being modified so that if a unit is not on the scale the labels will not be printed at all.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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.

Forest River will send out the dealer and retail letter that is included by VIN number requesting the weights. Upon receipt of the weights the information will populate the

database and the labels will be printed and sent to the dealer or the retail customer with instructions. We will commence the mailing upon approval of the dealer and retail letter by NHTSA.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. 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 573.8 requirements.

1. ¹Each 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 Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: *This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.*