

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

09V-469
(11 Pages)

On December 1, 2009, Aluma Tower Company, Inc. [MFR] decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety 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: December 1, 2009_____

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): Recall #09E-053_____

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.

Aluma Tower Company, Inc.

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

Ron Diniz, General Manager/ Vice President

Craig Davis, Assistant General Manager

Telephone Number: (772)567-3423 Fax No.: (772)567-3432_____

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Ron Diniz, General Manager/ Vice President

Craig Davis, Assistant General Manager

Signed: 

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

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:

Make(s): Aluma Tower Co. Inc. **Model Years Involved:** 2007-2009

Model(s): TM51-WA35EB4S6, TM52-WA60EB4S7, TM61-WA80EB4S8H, TM61-WA80EB4S812H,
TM61-HY80EB4S8H, TM61-RT80EB4S812H, TM81-120EB4S816, ECT-20EB4

Production Dates: Beginning: March 1, 2007 **Ending:** October 31, 2009

VIN Range: Beginning: 1A9BB24217F729078 **Ending:** 1A9B12139F729092

Vehicle Type: Mobile Trailer Tower **Bodystyle:** Sheltered and Enclosed

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

Only vehicles with shelters or enclosed cargo trailers are affected since these are the only ones that the Carrier
AirV air conditioners were installed on

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 Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.

There were a total of 144 trailer towers manufactured between March 1, 2007 and October 31, 2009. Of these 144 units produced, 42 of them had Carrier air conditioners installed. Mathematically, $42/144 = 0.29 = 29\%$. So, 29% of all vehicles manufactured by Aluma Tower Company, Inc. between March 1, 2007 and October 31, 2009 are subject to this recall. It should be noted that models TM61-WA80EB4S812H and TM61-RT80EB4S812H each have two air conditioner units.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
TM51-WA35EB4S6	2007, 2008, 2009	8,5,3
TM52-WA60EB4S7	2007	2
TM61-WA80EB4S8H	2007, 2008	2,1
TM61-WA80EB4S812H	2007, 2008, 2009	1,8,3
TM61-HY80EB4S8H	2008	1
TM61-RT80EB4S812H	2009	2
TM81-120EB4S816	2007	1
ECT-20EB4	2007, 2008	1,4

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: _____ **42**

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: From March 1, 2007 until October 31, 2009 29% of the vehicles Aluma Tower Company, Inc. manufactured have the Carrier AirV air conditioners installed

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:

There were a total of 144 trailer towers manufactured between March 1, 2007 and October 31, 2009. Of these 144 units produced, 42 of them had Carrier air conditioners installed. Mathematically, $42/144 = 0.29 = 29\%$. So, 29% of all vehicles manufactured by Aluma Tower Company, Inc. between March 1, 2007 and October 31, 2009 are subject to this recall. It should be noted that models TM61-WA80EB4S812H and TM61-RT80EB4S812H each have two air conditioner units. Only vehicles with shelters or enclosed cargo trailers are affected since these are the only ones that the Carrier AirV air conditioners were installed on. The basis for the beginning and final dates were chosen based on the information provided by Carrier which stated the dates of the recall for their defective AirV air conditioners. We allowed one month prior to the dates they

provided to allow for any discrepancies and went through October 31, 2009, which is when we terminated usage of the Carrier AirV products.

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 defect is in regards to the recall issued by Carrier Corporation for their AirV products, NHTSA Campaign ID Number 09E053000. The Carrier AirV products are located on the roof of the shelters that are manufactured by Aluma Tower Company, Inc. Carrier's analysis of the potential safety issued determined that the heater assembly could malfunction which could create a potential fire hazard. The above ID number provides detailed information provided by the manufacturer (Carrier) of the defective unit.

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

Carrier Corporation has undergone a root cause analysis and determined that the failure mode is excessive temperature in a localized area of the heater, due to a combination of manufacturing defects and variability and deviation from the specification, according to the recall they have issued

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

Carrier Corporation states that this defect is a potential fire hazard, according to the recall they have issued

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

Carrier Corporation states there have been a few incidents in which the unit has emitted smoke and/or sparks, according to the recall they have issued

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

Carrier Corporation

One Carrier Place

Farmington, CT 06034

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

Robert S. Picker

Manager Service/Warranty

Carrier Transicold

(717)767-3327

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.

6. The approximate dates are as follows:

October 21, 2009-Aluma Tower Company, Inc. was informed via US Mail from Carrier Corporation that there was a recall for their AirV products from April 2007 until present.

October 26, 2009- Called Mr. Robert S. Picker of Carrier Transicold to discuss the issue and proper plan of action. Was told that since we are the OEM of the product that used the Carrier product, we may have to file a claim with NHTSA. He provided the name George Person as a contact at NHTSA.

October 26, 2009- Tried to contact George Person but was unable to locate contact information. Was eventually told to send an e-mail to NHTSA.webmaster@dot.gov

November 20, 2009- Tried again to gain information in regards to having to file a claim ourselves or if the Carrier claim was only needed. Called NHTSA Vehicle Safety Hotline and was told to file a 573 defect report and to do so I needed to call the Early Warning Report Help Desk. Called the Help Desk and received voice mail. Left message regarding filing the report.

December 1, 2009- called the Help Desk again and was transferred to Kelly Schuller who sent this 573 report to be completed

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.

See Carrier's NHTSA recall #09E053000 for details

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.

See Carrier's NHTSA recall #09E053000 for details

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

See Carrier's NHTSA recall #09E053000 for details

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 product is no longer used after October 31, 2009 by Aluma Tower Company, Inc. and is being discontinued by Carrier Corporation

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.

See Carrier's NHTSA recall #09E053000 for details

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) or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to mailing.

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