

**THOR
INDUSTRIES, INC.**

419 West Pike Street, PO Box 629, Jackson Center, OH 45334-0629

July 22, 2010

**VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**10V-334
(3 Pages)

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Dutchmen Manufacturing
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Dutchmen Manufacturing ("Dutchmen") has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the recreational 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.

- A. Recall Population and Vehicle Identification. The recall population includes the following product brands manufactured by Dutchmen.

<u>Product Brand</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Aristocrat	2010
Coleman	2010, 2011
Dutchmen	2010, 2011
Dutchmen Lite	2010
Dutchmen Sport	2010
Four Winds	2010, 2011
Rainier	2011

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is: 1,255.
These vehicles were built between 11/2/2009 and 5/5/2010.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to this recall campaign were manufactured with axles that may not provide the proper tire sidewall clearance to the travel trailer wheel well or slide room cross shaft. If the proper tire sidewall clearance is not maintained, the tire could rub on the trailer wheel well or slide room cross shaft and result in a tire failure. A tire failure could result in loss of control of the vehicle resulting in a crash of the vehicle.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. The defect was discovered after warranty claims from dealers resulted in an investigation of the problem. Dutchmen has received a total of five (5) claims for this issue. Dutchmen also received a VOQ from NHTSA regarding this issue on July 13, 2010. At that time, NHTSA was informed we would be conducting a safety recall on this issue.

In November of 2009 the axle length on affected vehicles was shortened by 1 1/2". The shortening of the axle reduced the tire sidewall clearance to the trailer wheel well and/or slide room cross shaft. On several floor plans of the affected vehicles, this reduced tire sidewall clearance could result in the tire rubbing against the trailer wheel well and/or slide room cross shaft. Dutchmen will inspect all trailers that have the shortened axle to insure proper tire sidewall clearance. There have been no reports of property or personal injury as a result of this defect.

- D. Remedying of Defect. The remedy is to inspect the vehicles in the suspect population to insure they have adequate sidewall clearance to the trailer frame. If the vehicle is found to have inadequate sidewall tire clearance, modifications will be performed to the wheel well and or slide room cross shaft to allow for proper clearance. In addition, axle hub face spacers will be utilized as needed to assure that the minimum allowable clearance is achieved. This inspection and remedy will be done at no cost to the owner.
- E. Owner Notifications. Dutchmen will notify the owners of the recreational vehicles by letter beginning on August 2, 2010 pending NHTSA approval. A copy of the owner's letter is attached for approval.
- F. Dealer Notifications. Dutchmen will notify the dealers of the recreational vehicles by letter pending NHTSA approval. A copy of the dealer's letter will be forwarded shortly for approval.

- G. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Dutchmen will be filing quarterly reports in connection with this recall campaign.
- H. Campaign Number. Dutchmen does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Dutchmen will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Dutchmen with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Dutchmen in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact David Mihalick at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363. or Brad Sherwin, Dutchmen, at 574-975-0530.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager