

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

September 14, 2010

10V-410
(3 Pages)

VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED

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 has been notified by Lippert Components concerning a safety defect involving trailer axles built in April 2006. Lippert has already initiated a safety recall campaign with respect to this non-compliance. NHTSA has not yet assigned recall number to the Lippert recall campaign.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, we are hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain 5th wheel travel trailers manufactured by Dutchmen were built with Lippert axles that contain the defect.

As more specifically set forth below, Lippert has agreed to conduct the recall campaign involving these defective axles. Dutchmen will provide Lippert with a list of dealers and owners to assist Lippert in remedying the defect. Lippert will be filing the quarterly reports in connection with the recall campaign.

- 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> |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Grand Junction | 2006-2007 |

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is: 39.
These vehicles were built between April 27, 2006 and May 2, 2006.

- B. Description of Defect. The defective axles may contain mis-located welds attaching the axle spindle to the axle tube. If the welds are mis-located, the spindle may partially or completely separate from the axle tube and the wheel and hub assembly may come off the vehicle. An axle 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. Dutchmen was notified by NHTSA on July 6, 2010 via e-mail and was provided with VOQ 10340842. The VOQ was investigated by Dutchmen and a response was provided to NHTSA on July 14, 2010 as a one-time event and the issue was closed.
- Lippert subsequently contacted Dutchmen on August 18, 2010 requesting owner's information for the 7,000 axles they supplied during the period that the unit involved in the NHTSA VOQ was manufactured. Lippert then issued a recall on the defective axles and notified Dutchmen of their action on September 13, 2010. There have been no reports of property or personal injury as a result of this defect.
- D. Remedying of Defect. As set forth in the notification issued by Lippert in connection with their recall campaign, Lippert will correct the axles if found to be defective. The owners of the trailers subject to this recall campaign will be advised to contact Lippert in order to make arrangements to have the remedy completed by Lippert. Lippert will implement the recall campaign in accordance with the procedures specified in their recall campaign. Lippert has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Owner Notifications. Lippert will notify the owner's of the trailers on behalf of Dutchmen. A copy of the owner's notification letter is attached for approval.
- F. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Lippert will be responsible for filing quarterly reports in connection with their recall campaign. Because the information included by Lippert in its quarterly reports will encompass the remedying of the Dutchmen trailers subject to this recall campaign, Dutchmen will not file quarterly reports to avoid duplication.
- G. 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.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM Mihalick', written in a cursive style.

David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager