

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On 18 October, 2010, Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division, Division of Forest River Inc. identified a potential defect which relates to motor vehicle safety in items of motor vehicle equipment 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: 18 October 2010

Coachmen has determined in cooperation with Atwood Mobile Products LLC, that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2011 Chaparral, Brookstone and Northridge Fifth Wheels equipped with range-oven units supplied by Atwood Mobile Products LLC. Only vehicles equipped with Atwood range-oven units whose model numbers begin with RV1735, RV2135 and RA2135 and bearing date codes 07/01/10 through 09/20/10 are affected. We have determined that 124 units with range model RV2135 have been delivered to our dealer network.

Model number and date codes are located on the label under the stove top; a green check mark on the burner box indicates that the unit has been previously inspected and certified as non-defective.)

Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division and Atwood has determined that a small number of these units may contain a fracture in the gas line that delivers gas to the oven cavity burner. This condition presents a fire, explosion and/or asphyxiation risk.

Coachmen is conducting a safety recall campaign to inspect and, where necessary, correct this issue. Accordingly, Atwood Mobile Products will contact you soon to provide you with inspection/remedy instructions for units in your inventory and units that are brought in by vehicle owners.

If you have any questions please contact: Mike Vanderpool, Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division at 574 825 8360

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

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C.

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, 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 Ms. Jennifer Timian at (202) 366-5210, by FAX at (202) 366-7882, or E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

§30164.

Coachmen RV, Division of Forest River Inc.
423 N. Main Street
Middlebury, Indiana 46540

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall. - Michael Vanderpool, Service and Warranty Manager

Telephone Number: 574-825-8360

Fax No.: 574-825-8316

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Michael Vanderpool, Service & Warranty Manager

Signed:

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. **Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:**

3.

Atwood	35 Series	52227	21"	Open Well Range / Oven Combo	RANGE, RV-2135 BBP = 112	
Atwood	35 Series	52230	21"	Open Well Range / Oven Combo	RANGE, RV-2135 BBPR	48

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

This is a cooking range produced for the recreational vehicle industry. This unit has a cooktop with two 6,500 BTU burners and one 9,000 BTU burner. The oven has a 7,100 BTU burner. The oven box comes in 1 size 21". The "open well" and "sealed" references refer to the burner design. The suffixes refer to the product finish.

In summary the recall relates to a gas feed-tube for the oven that is common to all Atwood Range/Oven combos in the 35 series that were installed in Coachmen Fifth Wheel Units.

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

The 35 series is a new Atwood range product line that went into Coachmen production on August 24, 2010. 77 % of the Coachmen Fifth Wheel units built though September 29, 2010 are subject to recall.

II. Identifying the Recall Population

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

Model – RV2135	Year – 2010	Number of Items Potentially Involved – 124
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Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 124

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Approximately 77%

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 items of equipment:

The population was determined based in the receipt dates of the product from the supplier and production dates of the units. Also a record of model and serial numbers of appliances are recorded in the unit file.

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.

A small fracture has been found within the line supplying gas to the oven box. Such a fracture has the potential to leak gas when the oven box is in operation.

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

Our current understanding is that the initial aluminum tube billet lacks integrity. This billet is drawn into tubes in which cracks have been identified.

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

Gas only flows through the suspect tube when the oven thermostat valve is opened and the thermocouple signals that a pilot light is present in the oven box.

Once gas is flowing, it can leak through the wall of the fractured gas line leading to a potential build up of gas in the RV. In the presence of a spark or other ignition source, this leak may lead to a fire.

This condition may also pose risk of asphyxiation.

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

In the event of an actual fracture in the gas supply line:

- The LP detector in the coach should sound
- The consumer will potentially smell the LP gas
- The consumer might hear gas escaping through the leak.

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

The range is an appliance purchased from

Atwood Mobile Products LLC
1120 N. Main Street, Elkhart, IN 46514 |
574 266 4831

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

Kip Ellis | Vice President - Sales & Marketing | Atwood Mobile Products LLC
1120 N. Main Street, Elkhart, IN 46514 | Ph 574-266-4831 | Cell 574-320-4041 | Fax 574-262-2550
k.ellis@atwoodmobile.com | www.atwoodmobile.com

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.

Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division was notified by Kip Ellis, VP of Sales and Marketing of Atwood Mobile products on 9/24/2010. In the email and letter Mr. Ellis stated the following. "A problem discovered at the Atwood Greenbrier manufacturing facility. Specifically, during a regular quality and leak check during the Atwood manufacturing process, a charged burner supply tube ignited and was determined to be fractured. - 09/16/10

Warehouse shipments were quarantined - 09/17/10

100% inspection of finished product in Greenbrier and remote warehouses initiated - 09/20/10

Production from Greenbrier Operations certified as good - 09/20/10

NHTSA verbally advised of issue – 9/23/10

Supplier initiated 100% inspection of all tube stock and incoming tube materials - 9/23/10

Supplier confirmed absence of correlation between order/lot code data and failed tubes - 9/24/2010

Atwood advised OEM customers of identified problem and need to immediately cease use of the oven on affected units - 9/24/10”

There have been no reported accidents, injuries, fatalities or warranty claims to date.

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.

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.

AT SOURCE/IN PRODUCTION:

The component supplier has initiated 100% examinations of the gas supply tube. The tube is charged with air and held underwater before being integrated into the manifold assembly. The completed assembly is also being flame-tested for gas leaks. This latter test is being repeated at Atwood’s Greenbrier facility on integration of the assembly into the completed Range / Oven Combo.

Gas lines with leaks are not being built into assemblies

IN THE FIELD

a) Units not yet installed

Uninstalled units are connected to an LP gas supply. The pilot light in the oven box is lit. The oven thermostat valve is opened and the range burner then ignites. With gas flowing through the supply tube, the length of the tube is “wanded” with an open flame. If there is any gas leaking from the supply tube, the open flame will ignite it. The affected unit is then immediately quarantined and the stock is swapped out with good product.

b) Units installed in RVs

In most cases there is no easy access to the oven box gas supply line once the unit is installed. The test procedure is therefore as follows:

- 1) The burner assembly is removed from the gas supply line in the oven box.
- 2) The other end of the gas supply line is removed from the gas manifold.
- 3) A cap is placed on one end of the gas supply line and an integrated meter/pump is attached to the

other end.

- 4) Use supplied pressure apparatus to apply pressure and monitor for leaks. Absent a drop in pressure, the unit is re-assembled and tested for leaks.
- 5) In the event of a pressure leak, the RV unit is quarantined until a replacement range can be installed.

Currently trained Atwood and OEM personnel have been provided with tools and measuring equipment to inspect all the RV units on the OEM production lines or in the OEM lots awaiting shipment.

c) For units that were supplied to distributors or dealers, these stocks will be exchanged or tracked down for dealer testing.

For a), b) and c) units, a record of every tested Range / Oven Combo serial number is being logged and each good unit is marked with a green check mark.

Dealer service technicians will be supplied with work instructions, a video and the appropriate tools to replicate the test in b) on units in dealer lots and on units already delivered to customers.

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

Future shipments will not be built with fractured gas supply lines to the oven box.

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 is identical to the AT SOURCE/IN PRODUCTION recall remedy.

The product has not been discontinued

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.

28, 29 September 2010 - Atwood teams were mobilized to certify ranges in our inventory or already installed on Coachmen RVs on site and transportation yard.

11 October 2010 - A Safety Bulletin was issued to all dealers that have received Coachmen Units with the recalled Atwood Range installed. On all installed units, instructions were given that the oven box is not to be lit or used until the Range / Oven Combo has been checked. A copy of this bulletin is attached.

Future actions are being taken in terms of implementing field recalls through our dealer network and customer base. As of this writing, the anticipated schedule is as follows (Note the dates are on or before):

11 October 2010 - Dealers will be notified

22 October 2010 - Owners will be notified

Coachmen will submit a draft Owner Letter in accordance with Part 577 for agency review five business days prior to mailing.

Coachmen does not foresee problems in implementing the recall. Coachmen has a full list of all the serial numbers of the affected Range / Oven Combo units and can identify dealer location of each of Coachmen Fifth Wheel Units sold.

A process has been devised and proven to check the integrity of the installed units. Coachmen in cooperation with Atwood will work with the dealers and the Retail RV customers to ensure that each of the Range / Oven Combo units is checked and cleared or replaced by an appropriately trained technician. There will be no cost to the Retail customer.

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

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