

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

July 6, 2011

**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: Airstream
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Airstream 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 model manufactured by Airstream.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Interstate	2009 - 2012

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is 281.
These vehicles were manufactured between September 18, 2008 and June 24, 2011.

- B. Description of Defect. The Driver's Seat Belt Buckle Wire could be damaged or severed when the driver's seat is adjusted fore and aft or swiveled. The Driver's Seat Belt Wire is the wire that allows communication between the Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) and the vehicle Electronic Control Module (ECM) indicating if the driver's seat is occupied and the seat belt is buckled. In the event of a crash, the ECM will signal the seat belt tensioner to retract, pulling the driver back, into the seat allowing proper operation of the SRS. If the Driver's Seat Belt Buckle Wire is damaged or severed, this feature will be disabled which could result in personal injury to the vehicle's driver in the event of a crash. There have been no reports of injury associated with this defect.
- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. The defect was discovered as a result of an owner notification. The owner notified Airstream of the issue when

they had the Driver's Seat Belt Buckle wire on their Interstate get severed during routine usage. Upon further investigation at the manufacturing facility, it was discovered that during the vehicle assembly process the wire was rerouted and its travel was limited in the Driver's seat base due to recovering of the seat pedestal. A review of the information stored on file for each vehicle led to the determination of the beginning and ending production range.

- D. Remedying of Defect. The remedy is to repair the Driver's Seat Belt Buckle wire if found to be damaged or severed per Mercedes Benz approved service procedures. The wire will also be returned to its original routing and the proper clearance will be given to allow the wire to properly travel within the seat pedestal during seat movement of any kind. This will be done at no charge to the vehicle owner.
- E. Owner Notifications. Airstream will begin notifying owners within three weeks pending NHTSA approval. An owner's letter is attached for approval.
- F. Dealer Notifications. Airstream will begin notifying dealers within three weeks pending NHTSA approval. A dealer's letter is attached for approval.
- G. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Airstream will be filing quarterly reports in connection with this recall campaign.
- H. Campaign Number. Airstream does not have an internal campaign number for this recall. Airstream will use the recall campaign number assigned by NHTSA.

The enclosed information should comply with the NHTSA regulations and satisfy the obligations of Airstream with respect to this recall campaign. If you need any additional information regarding the participation of Airstream in this recall campaign, please feel free to contact David Mihalick at 937-596-6849, Ext. 7363. or Terry Coleman, Airstream, at 937-538-1268.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager