

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

On Oct 17th, 2011, Tiffin Motorhomes, 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: Nov. 2nd, 2011

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

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.

Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc.
105 2nd St. NW
Red Bay, AL 35582

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

Bob Tiffin, President

Telephone Number: 256-356-8161 Fax No.: 256-356-6863

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.
Liz Jones

Signed:

Bob Tiffin

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): _____ 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:

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.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
Allegro	2011	108
Phaeton	2011	171

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

279

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

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:

Cummins contacted Ziffin & stated that based on their analysis, they estimate that a total of 279 Freightliner chassis were sold to Ziffin that may fall within the scope of their recall (11V-474). The total spans all Cummins product lines (ISB, ISC/ISL, ISM, & ISX) that were shipped with the defective clamp & that were supplied to us from Sept 1, 2010 through Dec. 31, 2010.

Cummins Recall # 11E-031
Freightliner Recall # 11V-474

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.

Due to an error in the component supplier's plating process, the T-bolt included on the V-Band clamp assembly may be susceptible to fracture or failure when subjected to stress or load.

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

A fracture or failure of the T-bolt may cause the clamp to loosen + the inlet or outlet sections attached to the DOC/DPF housing to disconnect. If the inlet or outlet sections disconnect, hot exhaust gases can vent prior to exiting the tailpipe, creating a risk of combustion or damage to adjacent materials. In case where resilient mounting is employed, the DOC/DPF housing could disconnect completely from the exhaust system or vehicle in the unlikely event that both V-band clamps were to fail or loosen. In another case, the vehicle's check engine light will illuminate.

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

As a result of these risks, Jiffra has determined that this condition may constitute a safety-related defect with respect to vehicles that have flammable or combustible materials in close proximity to the DOC/DPF.

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

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

Jiffra purchased from Freightliner (Dealer), + they purchased from Cummins Inc., 500 Jackson Street, Columbus IN 47201.

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

At Cummins:

Steven Butler, Director of Product Safety
812-377-3713

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.

See NHTSA # 11E-031 (Cummins) and NHTSA # 11V-474 (Freightliner/Daimler) to see chronology of events.

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.

Cummins will install new V-Band clamps, without charge, through Cummins' service network.

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.

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

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.

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.

We have emailed the most recent names & addresses Tiffin has for the list of VINs Diamler sent us. They in turn will notify Cummins & Cummins will notify customers & dealers with stock units. Cummins will also be filing quarterly reports on behalf of Diamler & Tiffin.

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.