

RECEIVED
By Recall Management Division at 3:10 pm, Jan 12, 2012



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

January 12, 2012

**VIA E-MAIL
RECEIPT CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Ms. Nancy Lewis
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 Inc.
Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

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>Model</u>	<u>Model Years</u>
Voltage	2012
Rubicon 2900	2012

The total number of vehicles subject to this recall campaign is 437.
These vehicles were built between 7/19/11 and 12/21/11.

- B. Description of Defect. The vehicles subject to this recall campaign have been manufactured with an incorrect wheel center cap. The center cap that was assembled with the trailer did not provide adequate clearance to allow the wheel to fully seat on the hub face of the axle. Since the wheel did not fully seat on the hub face, the clamp load to keep the wheel attached to the trailer is inadequate. This can result in a wheel becoming loose and potentially coming off of the trailer. A wheel separation can lead to loss of control of the trailer resulting in serious injury. A separated wheel can also cause injury or damage to others.

- C. Basis for Determining that a Defect Exists. Dutchmen was notified by one of its dealers of a wheel separation on 11/17/11. An immediate investigation determined the root cause of the defect and the manufacturing date range affected.
- D. Remedying of Defect. The remedy is to replace the center cap on each wheel with a center cap that provides the required clearance between the wheel and hub face of the axle. Dutchmen has agreed to remedy the defect without charge to the owners.
- E. Supplier Information:
 - LionsHead Specialty Tire & Wheel, LLC
 - 305 Steury Avenue, Goshen, Indiana 46528
 - Phone: (574) 533-6169
 - Contact: Gary Graham - President
- F. Owner Notifications. Dutchmen will notify the owners of the recreational vehicles by letter pending NHTSA approval. A copy of the owner's letter is attached for approval.
- G. Dealer Notifications. Dutchmen will notify the Dutchmen dealers of this recall. A copy of the dealer's notification is attached for approval.
- H. Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Dutchmen will file quarterly reports in connection with this recall campaign.
- I. 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 Jerry McCarthy, Dutchmen at (574) 975-0546.

Sincerely,



David M. Mihalick
Thor Industries
Standards Compliance Manager