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August 23, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W45-306  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis:

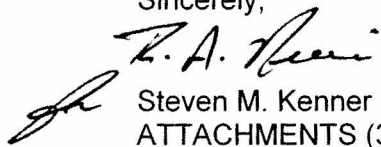
Subject: Ford Motor Company (Ford) Recall No. 12S38 – Certain 2013 model year F-53  
Motorhome Stripped Chassis Vehicles with Unapproved Steering Gear Adapter Plate  
Fasteners

Summary

- Ford Action – Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2013 model year F-53 Motorhome Stripped Chassis vehicles with unapproved steering gear adapter plate fasteners.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 31 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – The unapproved steering gear adapter plate fasteners could lead to torque loss in the steering gear attachment, potentially leading to loosening and subsequent separation of the steering gear over time. There are no reports of the condition on vehicles that have left the assembly plant.
- Service Procedure – All F-53 Motorhome Stripped Chassis body builders that received a subject vehicle have been contacted and directed to hold any subject vehicles. Ford has dispatched a specialized repair team to the four body builders to perform the fastener replacement procedure.

The detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 – Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report is attached.

Sincerely,

  
Steven M. Kenner  
ATTACHMENTS (3)



## 49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

### 12S38 – CERTAIN 2013 MODEL YEAR F-53 MOTORHOME STRIPPED CHASSIS VEHICLES WITH UNAPPROVED STEERING GEAR ADAPTER PLATE FASTENERS

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Non-Compliance Reports, Ford Motor Company submits the following information concerning a safety recall action that it is voluntarily initiating.

#### 573.6 (c) (2) – Potentially Affected Vehicles

Vehicles potentially affected are certain 2013 model year F-53 Motorhome Stripped Chassis vehicles with unapproved steering gear adapter plate retention fasteners built at Detroit Chassis Plant (DCP) from July 10, 2012 to July 13, 2012.

Ford vehicles are not produced in VIN order and we typically cannot provide VIN specific information. However, in this instance Ford is able to provide the specific VIN list – see Attachment II.

#### 573.6 (c) (3) – Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

Approximately 31 vehicles in the United States and federalized territories are potentially affected

#### 573.6 (c) (4) – Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Defect Condition

Unknown.

#### 573.6 (c) (5) – Description of the Defect

The unapproved steering gear adapter plate fasteners could lead to torque loss in the steering gear attachment, potentially leading to loosening and subsequent separation of the steering gear over time. There are no reports of the condition on vehicles that have left the assembly plant.

#### 573.6 (c) (6) – Chronology of Events

On July 13, 2012, DCP experienced five fractures of steering gear adapter plate retention fasteners during assembly. These fasteners affix the steering gear mounting plate to the body frame. On July 13, 2012, DCP issued a quality hold to ensure containment of vehicles, and on July 16, 2012, DCP issued a Stop Ship. Engineering investigation showed that an unapproved nut had been substituted for the released nut on July 10, 2012. When tightened to the design torque, the unapproved nut may create clamp load forces high enough to cause permanent deformation and yielding of the bolts. The appropriate released nut was reintroduced into production on July 13, 2012.

In early August, Ford contacted the motorhome body builders and requested that the affected vehicles be held while Ford completed the assessment of the unapproved fasteners for this application. On August 16, 2012, Ford's Field Review Committee reviewed the concern and approved a field action.

573.6 (c) (8) – Service Program

Ford has dispatched a specialized repair team to the four affected body builders to perform the fastener replacement procedure. All motorhome body builders that received a subject vehicle were instructed to Stop Ship any of the VIN-identified stripped chassis vehicles, until the steering gear adapter plate retention fasteners have been replaced by Ford's specialized repair team. A list of the affected motorhome body builders is included in Attachment III. There will be no charge to the motorhome body builders for this service.

If required, mailing of owner notification letters will occur on September 7, 2012. Notification to Ford dealers will occur on August 24, 2012.

In accordance with Part 573.13(d)(1), Ford is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this concern because Ford's original warranty program would provide for a free repair for this concern for customers.

573.6 (c) (10) – Press Statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

National media attention is likely as with most Ford recalls when posted to NHTSA's safecar.gov website. Ford will provide public comments when requested. A news release will not be issued.

Ford will forward a copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners to the agency when available.

573.6 (c) (11) – Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 12S38 to this action.

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## F-53 MOTORHOME VEHICLE VIN NUMBERS

## ATTACHMENT II

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1F66F5DY8D0A00939 | 1F66F5DYXD0A00988 |
| 1F66F5DY4D0A00940 | 1F66F5DY1D0A00989 |
| 1F66F5DY8D0A00942 | 1F66F5DY1D0A01074 |
| 1F66F5DY3D0A00945 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY2D0A00964 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY3D0A01010 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY5D0A01011 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY9D0A01013 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY2D0A01015 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY8D0A01018 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY6D0A01020 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY8D0A01021 |                   |
| 1F65F5DY4D0A01064 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY4D0A00954 |                   |
| 1F66F5DYXD0A00957 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY1D0A00958 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY3D0A00959 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY1D0A00961 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY7D0A01029 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY5D0A01031 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY7D0A00950 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY5D0A00980 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY7D0A00981 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY0D0A00983 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY2D0A00984 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY4D0A00985 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY6D0A00986 |                   |
| 1F66F5DY8D0A00987 |                   |

F-53 MOTORHOME BODY BUILDER ADDRESSES

- 1) FLEETWOOD ENTERPRISE, INC  
P.O. BOX 31  
DECATUR, INDIANA 46733
- 2) THOR INDUSTRIES, INC  
701 COUNTY ROAD 15  
ELKHART, INDIANA 46516
- 3) WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES, INC.  
605 WEST CRYSTAL LAKE ROAD  
FOREST CITY, IOWA 50436-0152
- 4) FOREST RIVER, INC.  
58277 STATE ROAD 19 S  
ELKHART, INDIANA 46517