



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 30, 2013

Mr. Tom Vanderputten
Service and Warranty Manager
Aluminum Trailer Company
P.O. Box 396
Nappanee, IN 46550

NVS-215KS
13V-376

Subject: Unexpected Unfurling of the Awning

Dear Mr. Vanderputten:

This letter serves to acknowledge Aluminum Trailer Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
ATC/QUEST/2013

Mfr's Report Date: August 20, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-376

Components:
EQUIPMENT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 17

Problem Description:

Aluminum Trailer Company (ATC) is recalling certain model year 2013 Quest trailers manufactured February 26, 2013, through April 10, 2013. Due to a design change in the Dometic-brand power awning motor assembly, the motor assembly screws may unknowingly shear.

Consequence:

If the motor assembly screws shear, it is possible that the awning can unfurl unexpectedly, either while the vehicle is at rest or while in transit, increasing the risk of personal injury or a vehicle crash.

Remedy:

ATC will notify owners, and Dometic staff will replace the affected motors with one of a different design. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact ATC at 1-574-773-8360 or Dometic at 1-888-447-0003 for more information. Owners are being instructed not to drive their vehicle until repairs can be performed.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

We have received Aluminum Trailer's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is expected owners will be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

We have been informed that Dometic will be handling the quarterly reporting for this campaign. Please be reminded that as the vehicle manufacturer Aluminum Trailer Company is ultimately responsible for conducting an adequate safety recall campaign of its vehicles. Accordingly if this safety recall campaign is not successful, the agency may require Aluminum Trailer Company to conduct a follow-up notification and conduct additional quarterly reporting.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement