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Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Date: 4-11-14

This report serves as Open Range RV's notification to the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that a "defect related to motor vehicle safety" exists in certain 2014 Model LF319 Open Range Recreational Vehicles. Highland Ridge RV decided that this defect existed in these vehicles on 3-13-14.

I. Manufacturer, Designated Agent, and Other Chain of Distribution Information

Manufacturer's corporate name: **Highland Ridge RV**

Vehicle brand or trademark name owner(s) (where applicable): **Open Range Light Fifth Wheel**

Designated Agent (imported vehicles):

If this notification concerns a defective or noncompliant component that the above identified manufacturer did not manufacture, identify that component and provide the name, address, and phone number of the manufacturer of the component (if this manufacturer is unknown, provide this information as to the supplier of the component)

Name, address, email, and phone and fax numbers for the person(s) to whom inquiries about this report should be directed:

Russ Draper, rdraper@highlandridgerv.com, ph 260.768.7771 ext 121, fax 260-771-4890

Eric Burns, eburns@highlandridgerv.com, ph 260-768-7771 ext 182 fax 260-768-4461

Manufacturer's assigned campaign number (where applicable):

II. Identification of the Recall Population and Its Size

Complete the tables below for each group of vehicles subject to this notification. Additional tables may be necessary where there are more than three groups subject to a notification.

Make: Open Range Light Fifth Wheels
Model: LF319
Model Year(s): 2014
Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year): October 23,2013 through March 10, 2014
Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars): Fifth Wheel Trailer
Other information necessary to describe these vehicles (e.g., VIN range, GVWR or class for trucks, displacement for motorcycles, and number of passengers for buses): Fifth Wheel Recreational Vehicle
Total number of these vehicles: 12

Make:
Model:
Model Year(s):
Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year):
Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars):
Other information necessary to describe these vehicles (e.g., VIN range, GVWR or class for trucks, displacement for motorcycles, and number of passengers for buses):

Total number of these vehicles:

Make:
Model:
Model Year(s):
Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year):
Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars):
Other information necessary to describe these vehicles (e.g., VIN range, GVWR or class for trucks, displacement for motorcycles, and number of passengers for buses):
Total number of these vehicles:

Provide the following information as to all the groups of vehicles:

Grand total number of vehicles: _____

The percentage of the recall population you estimate actually contain the defect or noncompliance: _____

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined (e.g., on what basis the recalled models were selected and how the inclusive dates of manufacture were determined):

From the first day of production until we switched to the current manifold system. All trailers produced from the 1st proto on October 23, 2013 through the change to a new gas line system March 11, 2014

Describe how the recall population is different from any similar vehicles not subject to this notification:

The similar trailers not in this recall have the correct sized gas line and the slide out operation is not restricted by the gas line.

III. Description of the Defect or Noncompliance and Chronology of Events

Describe the defect or noncompliance, including a summary and detailed description of the nature and physical location (if appropriate) of the defect or noncompliance. Graphic aids should be provided where necessary.

The gas line that runs to the kitchen slideout is located in the underbelly of the trailer, below the floor level of the house portion of the trailer.

Instructions are being developed for submission.

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

The production assembler did not know that a problem existed with the length of gas line being used, and production management did not know we needed a longer gas line for this new model of trailer.

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

The defect could cause a leak in the gas line or fitting due to undue pressure on the gas delivery system (flex gas hose).

Identify any warning(s) that may precede the defect or noncompliance condition.

If the consumer notices that the stove, hot water heater, or furnace are not functioning properly (gas is not flowing to the appliance) then there is a potential leak in the gas delivery system. They may also smell gas if there is a leak in the gas delivery system.

For defects, provide a dated, chronological summary of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination that the defect is related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information such as numbers of crashes, injuries and fatalities

On March 13 we determined that our gas line on model LF319 would need to be recalled due to information discovered in our PDI process. We observed that the gas line was restricting the movement of the slide out, upon further investigation it is believed this could potentially lead to the gas line being stretched and possibly kinked which could lead to leaks at the fitting. We have not had any claims in the field at this time.

For noncompliances, identify the test results and other information considered in determining the existence of the noncompliance, and provide the date of each test and observation indicative of that noncompliance.

IV. The Remedy Program and Its Schedule

Describe the program for remedying the defect or noncompliance, including the plan for reimbursing those owners and purchasers who may have incurred costs to remedy the defect or noncompliance before receiving the manufacturer's notification concerning that defect or noncompliance. Also include, where applicable, details with dates concerning any production remedy that was conducted or will be conducted.

Remedy: We will change the existing gas line with a longer gas line _____

.Repair Reimbursement: The repairs will be made at our cost and the retail owners/dealers will be fully reimbursed through our warranty process. Our records currently indicate that we have not received any field reports relating to this issue. _____

.Production Remedy: On March 17, 2014 we began installing a new gas manifold system which will prevent this from happening again. _____

Provide the estimated date(s) on which owner and purchaser notifications will be issued and the estimated date(s) for completion of those notifications. _____

All Dealers and retail owners have received a phone call explaining the situation. Customer letters are written and will go out once they have been approved through this process. They have been attached with this report _____

Provide the estimated date(s) on which dealer and distributor notifications will be issued and the estimated date(s) for completion of those notifications. Dealer letters will go out as soon as approved; they have been written and are attached with this report. Today's date 4-11-14 _____

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

Existing gas line is 120" long, the remedy gas line is 170" long _____

******* IMPORTANT REMINDERS *******

A DRAFT version of the letter that the manufacturer intends to mail to owners and purchasers notifying them of the defect and/or noncompliance must be submitted to NHTSA at least five Federal Government business days before those letters are issued. In addition, it is recommended that the draft version of the letter that the manufacturer intends to send to its dealers and distributors concerning the defect and/or noncompliance also be submitted for review. For prompt receipt and review, drafts may be submitted to the attention of the Recall Management Division (NVS-215) via facsimile on (202) 366-7882, or email to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

A representative 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, dealer, or purchaser, must be submitted to NHTSA no later than five days after they are initially sent. This requirement applies both to the final version of the notification letter that is sent to owners and purchasers, as well as the final version that is sent to dealers and distributors. It also includes any follow-up notifications issued concerning a recall. The representative copies of the letters sent to owners and purchasers, and dealers and distributors, must be submitted via certified mail. It is strongly recommended, however, that additional representative copies be submitted via facsimile on (202) 366-7882, or email to RMD.ODI@dot.gov, so that the submission can be more promptly reviewed. All submissions should be conspicuously labeled with the appropriate NHTSA-assigned recall number.

