



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 20, 2016

Mr. Steve Mary
Winnebago Industries, Inc
605 W Crystal Lake Rd.
Forest City, IA 50436

NEF-150MR
16V-385

Subject: Possible Steering Loss Due to Wrong Spacer

Dear Mr. Mary:

This letter serves to acknowledge Winnebago Industries, Inc'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:

ITASCA/ELLIPSE/2015-2016
WINNEBAGO/TOUR/2015-2016

Mfr's Report Date: May 26, 2016

NHTSA Campaign Number: 16V-385

Components:

STEERING

Potential Number of Units Affected: 306

Problem Description:

Winnebago Industries, Inc (Winnebago) is recalling certain model year 2015-2016 Winnebago Tour and Itasca Ellipse motor homes manufactured August 29, 2014, to November 4, 2015 and built on a Freightliner chassis. In the affected vehicles, the steering box may have been manufactured with an incorrect spacer with insufficient height that can cause too much play, causing the connection to wear between the steering wheel and the front axle.

Consequence:

The steering wheel's connection to the front axle could fail resulting in a sudden loss of steering ability, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Daimler Trucks of North America will notify owners, and Freightliner dealers will inspect and replace the steering gears, as necessary, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Note: Owners are urged not to drive their vehicles until they have been inspected. Owners may contact Freightliner at 1-800-547-0712.

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.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

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