



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

October 5, 2016

Mr. David Mihalick  
Thor Motor Coach  
419 W Pike St  
Jackson Center, OH 45334

NEF-150MR  
16V-696

**Subject:** Spare Tire Bracket may Loosen and Detach

Dear Mr. Mihalick:

This letter serves to acknowledge Thor Motor Coach'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:**

THOR/CHATEAU/2016-2017  
THOR/FOUR WINDS/2016-2017

**Mfr's Report Date:** September 26, 2016

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 16V-696

**Components:**

TIRES:TEMPORARY/EMERGENCY SPARE TIRE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 223

**Problem Description:**

Thor Motor Coach (TMC) is recalling certain model year 2016-2017 Four Winds and Chateau motorhomes manufactured June 16, 2015, to April 29, 2016. The affected motorhomes are equipped with a spare tire bracket that may loosen and detach during vehicle operation.

**Consequence:**

If the spare tire bracket and spare tire detaches, it could be a road hazard, increasing the risk of a crash or injury.

**Remedy:**

TMC will notify owners, and dealers will install carriage bolts to properly secure the spare tire bracket, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin October 17, 2016. Owners may contact Thor customer service at 1-877-500-1020. TMC's number for this recall is RC000122.

**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](http://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).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The information in your report suggests that TMC may have been aware of this issue more than five business days before filing a report with NHTSA. Please be reminded that under Federal law, this agency is to be notified of all safety defect and/or noncompliance decisions within five business days. 49 CFR 573.6

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