

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

16V-550

Manufacturer Name : Forest River, Inc.

Submission Date : AUG 01, 2016

NHTSA Recall No. : 16V-550

Manufacturer Recall No. : 220-07192016-0229



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Forest River, Inc.

Address : 55470 CR 1

P.O. Box 3030 Elkhart IN 46515-3030

Company phone : 1-800-348-7440

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 132

Estimated percentage with defect : 64 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2017-2017 Forest River, Inc. Freedom Express - FET28SE, FET282BHDS, FET282BHDSLE, FET281RLDS, FET281RLDSLE, FET29SE, FET292BHDS, FET292BHDSLE

Vehicle Type : TRAILERS

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Freedom Express is a recreational vehicle manufactured by Coachmen, a division of Forest River, Inc.

Production Dates : MAY 16, 2016 - JUL 19, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 5ZT2FETB4HA024517 **End :** 5ZT2FETBOHA025258 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : There may be insufficient space between the slideroom driveshaft and the trailer's driver's side tires.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If there is insufficient space between the slideroom driveshaft and the driver's side tires and if a tire continuously rubs against or repeatedly makes contact with the driveshaft, this may cause the tire to fail, increasing the risk of loss of vehicle control or a crash.

Description of the Cause : Forest River's chassis supplier for recreational trailers made a design change and moved the weld location of the flush floor slide arms. Moving the weld location decreased the clearance between the slideroom driveshaft and the driver's side tires on the trailer. The supplier made the design change without Forest River's knowledge.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : None.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Lippert Components, Inc.
Address : 2703 College Ave.
Goshen INDIANA 46528
Country : United States

Chronology :

On July 14, 2016, the Freedom Express division received a notification that while a vehicle was in transportation to a dealership, it lost a tire while in transit. The General Manager of the Freedom Express division advised Forest River's Office of Corporate Compliance of the incident described above. Forest River contacted the supplier of the chassis and learned that the vendor made a design change to the weld location for the flush floor slide arms without obtaining Forest River's approval.

On July 19, 2016, OCC and the division concluded the investigation into all peer product in which might be affected.

On July 21, 2016, Forest River decided to conduct a recall to address this matter.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Forest River will remedy the affected vehicles to allow for a sufficient distance between the tire inside wall and the slideroom drive shaft, free of charge to any owner and/or dealer. The remedy mechanism has not yet been determined.

What is the Forest River Customer Service Phone Number? (574)
825-8205

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The field remedy will require the removal of the current gear pack on both the front and rear slide arms. The remedy kit will include replacement gearpacks that are substantially narrower in design to help pull the driveshaft away from the tire. This installation will move the driveshaft inboard of the tire interior sidewall, providing roughly .75" of clearance.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : All new vehicles produced after 7/19/2016 are now manufactured with an axle with a wider lateral stance which provides sufficient distance between the driveshaft and the tires.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Forest River has the utmost urgency in our recalls. Forest River will send suspected VIN numbers to our third party vendor that is licensed to pull data on the current owner of the vehicles once a formal NHTSA I.D. is provided. Forest River intends on pushing the mailing out as soon as NHTSA provides any correction(s) and an Acknowledgement Letter.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : SEP 16, 2016 - SEP 16, 2016

Planned Owner Notification Date : SEP 16, 2016 - SEP 16, 2016

* NR - Not Reported