

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 23E-027

**Manufacturer Name :** Lippert

**Submission Date :** MAR 31, 2023

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 23E-027

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 080-2023-001



### Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** Lippert

**Address :** Attn: Pamela VanderMel  
PO Box 2888 Elkhart IN 46515

**Company phone :** 5743126040

### Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 3,394

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 1 %

### Equipment Information :

**Brand / Trade 1 :** Lippert / RV

**Model :** WAY Solar Panel installation & hardware only

**Part No. :** 2022302246 & 99

**Size :** 195W 100W

**Function :** Attachment

**Descriptive Information :** The recall population was determined based on vibration testing analysis of WAY branded solar panels installation and hardware components. The recalled population did not pass our testing. The products which were not included in the recall had installation and hardware components which passed our testing.

**Production Dates :** AUG 01, 2022 - MAR 21, 2023

### Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** In transit, the mounting hardware holding the solar panel in place could become loose or pull through slots in the solar panel.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** Solar Panels could separate from the bracket while the RV is in transit.

**Description of the Cause :** Contributing causes include:

- No Locking fasteners used to attach mounting bracket to solar panel
- Slot in Solar Panel and bracket potentially too large when compared to the bolt head size..
- Mounting brackets made of non-tempered aluminum that could allow brackets to bend or tear.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** Loosening hardware attaching bracket to panel.

### Involved Components :

Component Name : Way 195W & 100W Solar Panel hardware only.

Component Description : Installation bracket and hardware only solar panels installed on the roof of RV's

Component Part Number : 2022302246 & 2022302299

### Supplier Identification :

#### Component Manufacturer

Name : Delta Distribution LLC

Address : 343 Lynnvview Lane  
New Castle Indiana 47362-1519

Country : United States

### Chronology :

03.08.2023 – Lippert Engineering was advised of an issue with a panel detaching from an RV roof. Initiated a quality review of the WAY solar panels & found multiple mounting methods used by WAY prior to our acquisition.

03.09.2023 - Met with RV Mfr who advised there were two similar occurrences reported.

03.09.23 - 03.13.23 – Lippert vibration testing comparing multiple mounting methods used by WAY initiated and in process.

03.13.23 – Inspected and determined solar panel provided from Way vendor, Delta Distribution, Inc., failed vibration testing. Other solar panels passed vibration testing.

03.10.2023 – 03.20.2023 – Developed a concept service solution for adding mounting robustness to solar panels. Began vibration testing of potential concept solutions.

03.17.2023 – Claim information was provided to Lippert from the RV Mfr. No photos and no parts held or recovered.

03.24.2023 – Field Rework kits finalized and vendor procurement initiated.

03.25.2023: Lippert Safety Committee reviewed incidents, details of concern, testing, field resolution and validation processes.

3.29-30.2023: Lippert reviewing and correcting local product at OEM production locations.

03.30.2023: Lippert Files 573 to launch Recall.

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : As an equipment supplier we will notify the OEM's we have sold the solar panel to. We will assist the OEM's as needed in their notification to dealers and/or consumers. The dates entered below in "dealer notification date" will be for our notifications. Lippert will reimburse all related costs to OEM's, dealers, and repair centers. The remedy will be to add hardware to the existing product by installing a secondary holding bracket made from tempered aluminum and mounting screws.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : WAY solar panels produced by Delta and under this Recall are silver in color vs. product not under the recall that are black. Remedy hardware components include a secondary holding bracket made from tempered aluminum bracket and mounting screws. This solution provides twelve added screws holding the four added brackets to the RV.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : All WAY Delta solar panels placed on hold 3.21.2023 and rework was initiated to change out hardware to a tempered aluminum bracket and improved hardware (M6Hex Bolt, M6 Hex Nut, M6 bolt Lock Washer and M6 Flat Washer).

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : Lippert will notify our customers, RV Mfr's (OEM's) by 04/07/2023

Planned Dealer Notification Date : APR 10, 2023 - MAY 15, 2023

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

**Purchaser Information :**

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Company Phone : NR

\* NR - Not Reported