

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

23V-351

Manufacturer Name : REV Recreation Group**Submission Date :** MAY 18, 2023**NHTSA Recall No. :** 23V-351**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 230516REV**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : REV Recreation Group

Address : 1031 U.S. 224 E

P.O. Box 31 Decatur IN 46733

Company phone : 800 509 3417

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 1,186

Estimated percentage with defect : 90 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2020-2024 Fleetwood Bounder

Vehicle Type : LOW VOLUME VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : The campaign population was determined based upon a change of suppliers to Lippert Components, Inc. for a specific hitch (B37-0006) used on the Bounder/Southwind/Vacationer C, K, GL, P models. The Lippert designed hitch was implemented on October 1, 2019. The previous hitch was produced by a different manufacturer.

Production Dates : OCT 24, 2019 - MAY 05, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2020-2024 Holiday Rambler Vacationer

Vehicle Type : LOW VOLUME VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : The campaign population was determined based upon a change of suppliers to Lippert Components, Inc. for a specific hitch (B37-0006) used on the Bounder/Southwind/Vacationer C, K, GL, P models. The Lippert designed hitch was implemented on October 1, 2019. The previous hitch was produced by a different manufacturer.

Production Dates : DEC 04, 2019 - APR 19, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2020-2023 Fleetwood Southwind

Vehicle Type : LOW VOLUME VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : The campaign population was determined based upon a change of suppliers to Lippert Components, Inc. for a specific hitch (B37-0006) used on the Bounder/Southwind/Vacationer C, K, GL, P models. The Lippert designed hitch was implemented on October 1, 2019. The previous hitch was produced by a different manufacturer.

Production Dates : NOV 21, 2019 - APR 07, 2023

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The Lippert tow hitch receiver on certain REV Recreation Group gas motor homes may become damaged when under stress by consumer added aftermarket appliances such as a drop hitch or by overloading of the RV. These use related factors may increase leverage stresses on the hitch and/or cause the hitch to hit the pavement.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : A damaged tow hitch may cause the receiver portion of the hitch to separate from the hitch cross tube resulting in separation of the tow vehicle from the coach which could present a road hazard resulting in property damage and/or injury.

Description of the Cause : Lippert Engineering has determined the failure is caused by stress on the hitch from impact with the ground or leverage from customer added drop hitch attachments which may increase the stresses on the hitch receiver. Repeated impact could increase the risk of damage to the hitch. Failed parts analyzed had damage on the bottom side of the drop hitch, fractured surface of the hitch cross bar and receiver and the upward bending of the top support plate.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Weld fractures may be present during inspection.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Tow Hitch Receiver

Component Description : Tow Hitch Receiver

Component Part Number : B37-0006

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Lippert

Address : Po Box 2888

Elkhart Indiana 46515

Country : United States

Chronology :

In May of 2023, REV Recreation Group notified Lippert that a risk to safety may occur on certain Lippert manufactured hitches and that REV Recreation Group would immediately conduct a recall out of an abundance of caution on behalf of the hitch supplier.

- In July 2022, REV Recreation Group received notification that a Lippert manufactured hitch had welds that broke while in use. A review of warranty history revealed no other reported failures of this part as of this time.
- In November 2022, REV Recreation Group received notice of a second reported failure of this hitch. The parts were returned to Lippert, the hitch manufacturer and it was determined that in each case involving a reported hitch failure, an approximate 6" customer added drop hitch was being utilized to facilitate flat towing of an SUV.
- December 2022, REV Recreation Group conducted a follow up meeting with Lippert and the assessment at that point indicated the failures were potentially related to use of aftermarket equipment contacting the ground during use or by stress added by leverage by consumer added drop hitches.
- Dec 2022 and ongoing, REV Recreation Group and Lippert started an investigation and reviewed testing data to determine the effect of consumers adding an aftermarket drop hitch.
- April 3, 2023 - A customer with REV Recreation Group gas motor home reported their Lippert hitch welds had a failure. Field data now shows that there are a total of 5 similar reports with the specific subject part number. Further evaluations were conducted and remain underway.

REV leadership and engineers met and discussed the specifications of the units with the failure and concluded that their safety committees should consider a campaign to replace the specific hitch with a redesigned, more robust part in the interest of customer safety.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Lippert has developed a new hitch design with specifications that are improved to reduce the stress created by consumer added drop hitches per FEA analysis. REV Recreation Group approved the hitches and started installing them effective April 7, 2023. Technicians will be provided technical instructions by REV RV to inspect and replace the hitch.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy component has been validated and tested by Lippert and REV Recreation Group engineering for additional strength.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The recall condition was corrected in production in April 2023 when a more robust hitch design was received.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer notification will be conducted via email, and owner notification will be conducted via US Mail.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JUL 12, 2023 - JUL 12, 2023

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUL 15, 2023 - JUL 15, 2023

* NR - Not Reported