

# Forest River, Inc.

55470 County Road 1

P.O. Box 3030

Elkhart, Indiana 46515-3030

**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management Division at 8:23 am, Oct 16, 2012

12V-341  
(3 pages)

October 15, 2012

Dan Smith  
Associate Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

## **Re: Defect Information Notice FL-611, Cummins V-Band Clamp Recall**

Mr. Smith:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Forest River Inc. reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 850 Berkshire and 219 Charleston Motor Homes manufactured January 2005 through September 2010, and equipped with IOTA ITS-50R Transfer Switch which may be experiencing heat related failures when exposed to elevated electrical loads associated with RV use in higher ambient temperatures.

Attached is Forest River's Defect Information Report.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Julie Browning

# Forest River, Inc.

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## Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

October 15, 2012

**(c)(2) Manufacturer:** Forest River, Inc.

P.O. Box 3030

Elkhart, Indiana 46515-3030

(574) 389-4600

**Brands:** Berkshire and Charleston

**(c)(2) Vehicles identification:**

**Models affected:**

Berkshire: 360QS, 360FWS, 390BH, 390RB, 390QS, 390TS, 390FL and 410QS

Charleston: 360QS, 360TS, 400QS, 400TS, 410FWS, 410FS, 410QS, 410DST

410LR, 410FK, 405QS, 430QS, 430RB, 430BH

**Model Years:** 2005 - 2011

**Manufacture Dates:** January 2005 to September 2010

**Basis for Determining Population:** All vehicles equipped with an IOTA ITS-50R Transfer Switch

**Component Manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacture:**

IOTA Engineering PO Box 11846 1301 E. Wieding Rd

Tucson, AZ 85706 Contact: Steve Shell President/CEO

**(c)(3) Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected:** Approximately 1069

Motor Homes in the United States

**(c)(4) Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect:** 100%

**(c)(5) Description of the Defect:** Forest River Inc. reports a safety campaign to recall approximately 850 Berkshire and 219 Charleston Motor Homes manufactured January 2005 through September 2010, and equipped with IOTA ITS-50R Transfer Switch which may be experiencing heat related failures when exposed to elevated electrical loads associated with RV use in higher ambient temperatures. The failure is causing connections and wiring in the transfer switch to degrade and heat leading to elevated case temperatures and an increased risk of electrical damage to other appliances from loss of neutral in a 120V circuit. Continued use of the vehicle without replacing the transfer switch increases the risk of fire, personal injury, and property damage.

# **Forest River, Inc.**

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**49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of Safety Risk:** IOTA ITS-50R Transfer Switch which may be experiencing heat related failures when exposed to elevated electrical loads associated with RV use in higher ambient temperatures. The failure is causing connections and wiring in the transfer switch to degrade and heat leading to elevated case temperatures and an increased risk of electrical damage to other appliances from loss of neutral in a 120V circuit. Continued use of the vehicle without replacing the transfer switch increases the risk of fire, personal injury, and property damage.

**(c)(6) Chronology of Principle Events:**

Basis for determining a defect exists. Forest River, Inc. noticed an increase in transfer switch failures in the summer of 2011. After returning the damaged transfer switches to Iota for their inspection, and after Forest River, Inc. engineering and production reviewed the failed switches we have decided to replace the Iota transfer switch with different transfer switch.

**(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data:** Not applicable

**(c)(8) Remedial program:**

IOTA ITS -50R Transfer Switch is to be replaced with a different brand transfer switch supplied by Forest River.

**Estimated Owner and Dealer Notification Date:** Forest River will notify Dealers and Owners of the recall by letter beginning August 2012. Forest River will administer this recall campaign and will be filing Quarterly Reports in connection with this recall campaign.

**(c)(9) Information for tire recalls:** Not Applicable

**(c)(10) Communications sent to dealers and owners:** Copies of the Owner and Dealer letters are attached.

**(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number:** Forest River Safety Advisory # 40-712