

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-391

Manufacturer Name : Airstream, Inc.

Submission Date : AUG 20, 2020

NHTSA Recall No. : 20V-391

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Airstream, Inc.

Address : 419 West Pike Street
PO Box 629 Jackson Center OH
45334-0629

Company phone : 937-596-6111

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 145

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2020-2021 Airstream Interstate & Atlas Motorhomes

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : UNKNOWN

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : The recall population was determined by review of the production data provided by VB and then matched to the Airstream vehicles that had the VB suspension systems involved. The recalled products are identified by markings of the attachment bolts.

Production Dates : MAR 13, 2020 - JUN 26, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1B9HUWH28LJ306479 End : 1B9GUWH21MJ307826 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2020-2021 Airstream Atlas

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : The recall population was determined by review of the production data provided by VB and then matched to the Airstream vehicles that had the VB suspension systems involved. The recalled products are identified by markings of the attachment bolts.

Production Dates : JAN 28, 2019 - AUG 13, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1B9KUWH20MJ307049 End : 1B9KUWH2XMJ307866 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The square lock portion of the countersink bolts attaching the VB Suspension system to the vehicle is too long resulting in the load of the suspension spring being absorbed by the bolts rather than the panhard rod bracket the bolts were securing. The square lock portion of the countersink bolts prevents the panhard rod bracket from fully contacting the springs.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : The load of the suspension springs is being carried by the mounting bolts rather than the panhard rod bracket they were meant to fasten to the spring. The load of the spring may result in the bolts breaking from the high load. If the bolts break, the axle would be free to move fore and aft on the vehicle. This would result in a loss of vehicle control which result in an accident causing personal injury.

Description of the Cause : The distributor of the attachment bolts to VB suspensions changed its vendor of the bolt. Although, the bolt still meets the required strength testing, the physical dimensions of the bolt head are just enough different to cause this defect to occur during assembly. There was a missing dimension on the bolt specification drawing that did not define the height of the square locking of the bolt. The square locking function was between 1mm and 2 mm too high causing interference with the mounting bracket.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : There would be a "loose" feeling to the driver in the rear of the vehicle while driving.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : VB-Airsuspension North America

Address : 4505 Wyland Dr.

#1000

Elkhart

INDIANA 46516

Country : United States

Chronology :

6/25/20 - VB Suspensions notified Airstream of an issue with the mounting bolts of their air suspension. In addition, VB provided a list of serial numbers of the affected parts.

6/29/20 - The Airstream safety committee met and voted to issue a safety recall for the issue.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The remedy will be to replace the out of dimension bolts with bolts of the proper dimension.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : VB Airsuspension is providing replacement bolts with the correct markings on the heads and with the correct dimensions to replace the incorrect bolts. VB Suspensions has provided a procedure to accomplish this task.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : All vehicles in production will be reviewed and corrected by July 13, 2020.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Airstream will send dealer and owner notification letters once approved by NHTSA.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : AUG 31, 2020 - AUG 31, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : AUG 31, 2020 - AUG 31, 2020

* NR - Not Reported