

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

22V-313

Manufacturer Name : Winnebago Industries, Inc.

Submission Date : MAY 09, 2022

NHTSA Recall No. : 22V-313

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Population :

Manufacturer Name : Winnebago Industries, Inc.

Number of potentially involved : 207

Address : PO BOX 152
605 W. Crystal Lake Rd. Forest City IA
50436

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Company phone : 1-641-585-3535

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2021-2023 Winnebago Ekko

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population was determined by identifying all Ekko models with a tailgate package. The Enerco Flex-Tech LP quick disconnect is only provided in this model with the tailgate package.

Production Dates : JAN 08, 2021 - APR 27, 2022

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR **End :** NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : LP gas quick disconnects manufactured and supplied by Enerco Flex-Tech are cracking after being assembled. In some cases, the cracking may result in a propane leak. Neither Winnebago Industries nor any of its associated brands are aware of any injuries or deaths associated with this issue.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : A cracked LP quick disconnect fitting may lead to a propane leak, which increases the risk of a fire. In all cases, the fittings at issue are located outside the living quarters of the RV (underneath or at an outside kitchen) for all Winnebago Industries and associated brand vehicles.

Description of the Cause : When the fitting is tightened, the female housing may crack. We are informed that the supplier, Enerco Flex-Tech, has not identified root cause at this time, although it is preliminarily believed that the issue is related to an interference between the male and female parts in the connection. While this is not a Winnebago Industries component, and was not manufactured to any Winnebago Industries specification, design and/or instruction, out of the

interests of safety, Winnebago Industries commenced an independent analysis of the issue, including the resources of a third-party engineering consultant, which remains ongoing.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : A customer may notice the smell of LP gas near the quick disconnect fitting or visibly notice a crack in the fitting.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Hose ASM LP

Component Description : Auxiliary LP Hose

Component Part Number : 344074-01-000

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Enerco Group Inc.

Address : 4560 West 160 St
Cleveland Ohio 44135

Country : United States

Chronology :

In mid-May 2021, Grand Design, identified cracked LP quick connect fittings which appeared to be production related. Grand Design communicated the issue to the supplier, Enerco Flex-Tech. Enerco Flex-Tech did not communicate any potential safety issues, advised the issue appeared to be one of quality control/production, and advised that it would make process improvements to the component manufacturing. Upon review, no field failures were identified.

Subsequently, over the following approximate 9-to-10-month period, Grand Design occasionally identified Enerco Flex-Tech cracked fittings upon receipt, or during production quality checks. After each finding, Grand Design communicated with the supplier which continued to assure the issue was one of manufacturing quality assurance. Given vendor feedback, Grand Design did not identify a potential safety-related concern.

In March 2022, Winnebago Towable identified additional Enerco Flex-Tech cracked fittings in production. On April 7, 2022, Winnebago Industries opened an investigation to assess the situation at Grand Design and across its associated companies. Inventory was inspected, and warranty claims were analyzed. Approximately mid-April, Winnebago was advised of a pending recall by another OEM regarding a similar issue. On or about April 18, 2022, Grand Design was able to re-create cracked fittings at specified torque and sent sample parts to a third-party engineering consultant for analysis.

On or about April 20, 2022, Enerco Flex-Tech advised Winnebago that it was filing a defect report with NHTSA regarding the component and issue. About May 3, 2022, Grand Design's third-party engineering consultant offered the tentative opinion that the cause of the cracks is over-tightening of the transition fitting between the valve body and manifold by the supplier during their manufacturing process. That same day, Winnebago's product safety committee met and decided to file a defect information report with NHTSA.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The remedy to correct this defect will involve the replacement of all suspect components with new components with a different design. The remedy will be performed by Winnebago Dealers at no cost to the consumer. If a consumer has paid to remedy this issue, they may be eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursement information can be obtained by contacting Winnebago Customer Care.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : All suspect components will be replaced with new components with different design.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The recall condition is corrected in production with all suspect components being replaced with new components with different design.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Owner and dealer notifications will be sent within the 60 day requirement.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JUL 01, 2022 - JUL 01, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUL 01, 2022 - JUL 01, 2022

* NR - Not Reported