

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

April 14, 2023

Mr. Mike Becker Director of Corporate Compliance Forest River, Inc. 2324 Century Drive Goshen, IN 46528 NEF-107KL 23V-262

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Solar Panel Mounting Hardware May Loosen

Dear Mr. Becker:

This letter serves to acknowledge Forest River, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

#### Makes/Models/Model Years:

COACHMEN/APEX/2023
COACHMEN/BROOKSTONE/2023
COACHMEN/CHAPARRAL / 2023
COACHMEN/CHAPARRAL LITE/2023
COACHMEN/SPIRIT TRAVEL / 2023
EAST TO WEST/ALTA / 2023
EAST TO WEST/ENTRADA / 2022-2023
EAST TO WEST/TANDARA / 2022
FOREST RIVER/FORESTER / 2021
FOREST RIVER/FR3 / 2021
FOREST RIVER/GEORGETOWN / 2021
PRIME TIME / CRUS ADER / 2023
PRIME TIME / SANIBEL / 2023
SHASTA / PHOENIX / 2023

Mfr's Report Date: April 13, 2023

NHTSA Campaign Number: 23V-262

**Components:** EQUIPMENT

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 2.616

# **Problem Description:**

Forest River, Inc. (Forest River) is recalling certain 2021 Forester 2401BSD, FR3 F3A32DSF, Georgetown GTA36K7, 2022-2023 East to West Entrada, 2023 East to West Alta, Coachmen Apex, Brookstone, Chaparral and Chaparral Lite, Forest River Crusader, Sanibel, Shasta Phoenix, Coachmen Spirit, and East to West Tandara vehicles. The solar panel mounting hardware may become loose and pull through the slot in the panel.



## **Consequence:**

Loose hardware can cause the solar panels to detach from the vehicle during transit, increasing the risk of a crash.

## Remedy:

Dealers will install additional hardware to the existing panel and install a secondary holding bracket, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed May 23, 2023. Owners may contact East to West Alta, Entrada and Tandara customer service at 1-574-264-6664; Coachmen Apex and Spirit customer service at 1-574-825-8205; Coachmen Brookstone, Chaparral, Chaparral Lite, and Shasta Phoenix customer service at 1-574-825-7101; Crusader and Sanibel customer service at 1-574-862-1025; and Georgetown Forester and FR3 customer service at 1-574-206-7600. Forest River's number for this recall is 51-1607.

#### Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.nhtsa.gov.

We have received Forest River's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f), submission of eight consecutive quarterly reports followed by three annual reports is required. As described in 573.7, submission of the first of eight consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter. The first of three consecutive annual status reports will be due on, or before, 1 year after the eighth quarterly report was submitted.

Forest River, Inc.'s contact for this recall will be Kristin Lepper who may be reached by email at kristin.lepper@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Ansley

Alex Andy

Chief, Recall Management Division Office of Defects Investigation

Enforcement

