

## **SAFETY RECALL NOTICE**

TO: All Distributors and OEM Manufacturers

Fontaine Fifth Wheel has decided that a safety defect exists in Ultra LT model fifth wheels manufactured between 2009 and 2013. Accordingly, a recall to address this issue is being initiated effective August 12, 2015.

The defect involves a susceptibility of the fifth wheel and its locking mechanism to cumulative damage that may cause the fifth wheel lock to function improperly or a failure of the locking mechanism to properly engage. This cumulative damage is the result of the failure of operators to use proper coupling and maintenance procedures over a period of time. These practices include, but are not limited to, high coupling, a failure to conduct a proper visual inspection, a failure to ensure that the fifth wheel is in the fully open and ready to couple position prior to coupling, and failure to follow recommended maintenance practices.

Where cumulative damage has occurred and goes unnoticed during visual inspections and maintenance of the fifth wheel, the fifth wheel lock may fail to function properly and the locking mechanism of a damaged fifth wheel may fail to properly engage.

Fontaine Fifth Wheel will replace at no charge to customers all Ultra LT fifth wheels in the field with Ultra NT model fifth wheels. In the interim, owners/operators should inspect each of the Ultra LT fifth wheels in their fleets to look for signs of any damage, including bent operating handles, wedge guides, locking wedges and locking jaws. Special care should be taken to inspect fifth wheels after known or suspected improper coupling attempts and instances in which preventative maintenance has not been performed per Fontaine's instructions. Where the damage to the fifth wheel caused by improper coupling procedures is severe, drivers may notice during their required visual inspection of the fifth wheel that the locking mechanism of the fifth wheel does not extend across the entire throat of the fifth wheel. In some instances where the fifth wheel locking mechanism has been damaged, the driver may notice excessive slack in the fifth wheel connection as he/she operates the vehicle. Accompanying this letter is a Service Bulletin illustrating examples of damage to look for during an inspection.

**Where any damage is noted to the fifth wheel during an inspection it should be immediately taken out of service.** If no damage is noted during an inspection, the fifth wheel should be cleaned and greased according to Fontaine's maintenance instructions including Fontaine's cold weather maintenance procedure at: [www.fifthwheel.com/pdfs/technicalbulletins/TB-008.pdf](http://www.fifthwheel.com/pdfs/technicalbulletins/TB-008.pdf). Undamaged fifth wheels may continue safely in service until such time that an Ultra NT replacement is available.

In order to efficiently and thoroughly implement this recall, Fontaine is requesting that you provide the following information for any Ultra LT model fifth wheel that you have sold (a list of Ultra LT model numbers is included at the end of this notification):

**Date of Manufacture / Date of Sale:**

**Vehicle Vin Number:**

**Fifth Wheel Serial Number:**

**Who the vehicle / fifth wheel assembly was sold to (Contact Information, Name, Address, Phone Number):**

Please be reminded that as a result of this recall it is a violation of Federal law for you to sell or lease an Ultra LT fifth wheel covered by this notification. Substantial civil penalties apply to violations of this law.

Your assistance with this recall is appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Fontaine Fifth Wheel at **1-800.874.9780** or **parts@fifthwheel.com**.

Sincerely,

Fontaine Fifth Wheel

**Ultra LT Fifth Wheel Model Numbers**

AA4LWO675012  
AA4LWO775012  
AA4LWO875012  
AATPL4000  
SL4APB6250  
SL4APB7250  
SL4APB8250  
SL4LWI675012  
SL4LWI775024  
SL4LWO675012  
SL4LWO675024  
SL4LWO675036  
SL4LWO775012  
SL4LWO775024  
SL4LWO775036  
SL4LWO875012  
SL4LWO875016  
SL4LWO875024  
SL4LWO875036  
SL4SMB6875

SL4SMB7875  
SLTPL4000  
SR4LWO675012  
SRTPL4000