



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

October 24, 2008

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Richland, WA [REDACTED]

NVS-216 aae
Ref. #10233931

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 26, 2008, concerning your model year (MY) 1998 Alpine Coach. Your correspondence was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation on July 7, 2008.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

In your letter you request reimbursement for costs you incurred to replace a refrigerator in your RV. Federal regulations require a manufacturer conducting a safety recall of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment to reimburse owners who have paid to obtain a remedy for the problem within a reasonable time, which in many instances is one year, prior to the manufacturer's notification. Certain restrictions apply, including the need to submit certain documents to the manufacturer. Owners should follow the instructions in the recall notification letter to file a claim. Owners who feel that their claim was wrongfully denied should pursue the matter with the manufacturer. Owners may also report any dispute to NHTSA by contacting the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Auto Safety Hotline (Hotline) or by filing a complaint via the agency's Internet Web site. While NHTSA does not have the resources to intervene in individual disputes, it does monitor this data and may address situations where appropriate. Additionally, our statute does not require manufacturers to reimburse owners for costs associated with a safety recall (e.g., lost wages while the vehicle is being repaired, car rentals, damage caused by the defect, etc.). Nor does the statute authorize the Federal government to reimburse vehicle owners for any costs associated with safety recalls or assist vehicle owners in obtaining reimbursements for costs associated with an alleged defect. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Richard Willard, Consumer Safety Officer at 1-877-536-8368 ext. 66544.

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NHTSA
www.nhtsa.gov

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank S. Borris II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "B".

Frank S. Borris II, Acting Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure