



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 22, 2008

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Denver, NC [REDACTED]

NVS-216 et
Ref. No. 10238170

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 28, 2008, concerning the Dometic refrigerator that was equipped in your recreational vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on August 6, 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. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect or safety defect recall adequacy is warranted.

In your letter, you question the adequacy of Dometic's remedy under NHTSA safety recall 08E032. Specifically, you question why the remedy does not entail the replacement of the boiler tube. Refrigerant leakage from the boiler tube of the affected refrigerators will result in an inoperative unit. However, this is not a safety related consequence within the meaning of our authorizing statute. Under certain conditions, refrigerant leakage could result in a fire which is certainly an unreasonable safety-related consequence. Dometic has determined that in the event

of a fire, the installation of a secondary burner housing will contain the fire until the fire extinguishes. While this does not address the frustration customers may feel at the loss of refrigerator function, NHTSA has found no evidence to suggest that this is not a reasonable remedy to address the risk of a vehicle fire.

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