U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 10-010
Prompted by: 10E-049
Date Opened: 12/14/2010
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Norcold Refrigerator Fires

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: NORCOLD INC.
Products: 1200 series refridgerators made 1/1/2003-10/6/2010
Population: 151,795

Problem Description: Norcold is installing a thermocouple into certain refrigerators to ensure high temperatures are detected and the chance of fire reduced.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:**

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open EQ

Summary:

On October 7, 2010 Norcold, Inc. (Norcold) notified the NHTSA that it had decided certain 1200 series refrigerators, manufactured between January 1, 2003, and October 6, 2010, contain a safety related defect. Norcold stated that certain refrigerators contain either a sensing algorithm or a thermal switch to interrupt power to the refrigerator when it detects high temperatures that could lead to a fire. Norcold intends to install a thermocouple to improve the response time of this high temperature detection and further reduce the possibility of fire within these units. Should a fire occur within a refrigerator installed into a recreational vehicle, both personal injury and property damage are possible. NHTSA assigned recall number 10E-049 to this matter.

To date 13 vehicle manufactures have submitted subsequent Part 573 Reports for their affected vehicles. Given the large population of this recall and past EQs auditing similar Norcold recalls, it is likely even more manufacturers will need to conduct safety recalls and notify their customers.

The purpose of this EQ is to write to the companies, notify them of this defect in any vehicles they manufactured, and ensure thorough safety recalls are conduced where appropriate.