



06V-430
(2 pages)

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC

NOV 1 10 25

November 1, 2006

PA

DEFECT INVESTIGATION

Director, Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Part # 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC. – Dometic Corporation Refrigerators

Dear Mr. Person;

Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company, LLC (Coachmen) has become aware of a potential safety defect regarding two-door refrigerators manufactured by Dometic Corporation (Dometic) that may have been installed in some of our recreational vehicles. Coachmen has not yet received direct notification from Dometic, but we have been provided a copy of their Part 573 notification to NHTSA outlining the nature of their issue. We are in the process of reviewing this information to determine the actual amount of our vehicles that may be affected, but have determined that we did use some of the affected Dometic products specified in their Part 573, and therefore are submitting this notification to you indicating our awareness of this issue.

We will provide you a complete summary of affected Coachmen vehicles once that information has been determined.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

Dometic's notification states the following:

"A fractional percentage of the potentially affected refrigerators have experienced a fatigue crack that may develop in the boiler tube in the area of the weld between the boiler tube and the heater pocket. A fatigue crack may release a sufficient amount of pressurized coolant solution into an area where an ignition source (gas flame) is present. Dometic's investigation has shown that a simulated release of cooling solution (refrigerant) in the area of the boiler, under certain conditions, could be ignited by the presence of an open flame....Under certain conditions, the released coolant could ignite and result in a fire."

DISCOVERY OF THE DEFECT

Coachmen requested and received a copy of Dometic's Part 573 notification on October 23, 2006.

PRECLUSION OF POTENTIAL DEFECT

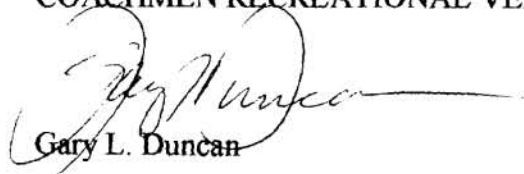
As stated in Dometic's Part 753, they have not yet identified a proposed remedy for the potential defect.

We understand that Dometic is working with NHTSA regarding an approved resolution to this potential defect and the details regarding how this information will be relayed to the affected owners and completions tracked and reported to NHTSA are yet to be determined. Once finalized, Coachmen will work closely with Dometic and NHTSA to insure proper notification and remedy procedures are relayed to our customers and dealers and all required reports are completed.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please advise.

Very Truly Yours,

COACHMEN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE COMPANY, LLC.



Gary L. Duncan

Cc: Rick Lavers – Coachmen Industries
Michael Terlep, Jr. – Coachmen Recreational Vehicle Company LLC