

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On August 18, 2007, _____ [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. _____) exists in items of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared August 23rd 2007

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): EQ06-019

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

HARMAR INC
58456 Co. Rd. 3 South
EIKHART, IN 46517

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Randy Frick President

Telephone Number: 574-294-1269 Fax No.: 574-294-1171

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.
Randy A. Frick
President

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

Signed: _____



I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Generic name of the item: HARMAI

Make: Horse Trailer Model: _____

Part Number: _____ Size: _____

Function: Horse Trailer

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

living and Horse Trailers with 2 Door Refers

Make: Movie STAR Model: _____

Part Number: _____ Size: _____

Function: Movie TRAILER RENTALS

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

TRAILERS THAT MOVIE STARS STAY in while shooting FILMS.

Make: _____ Model: _____

Part Number: _____ Size: _____

Function: _____

Model Years Involved: _____

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Make: _____ Model: _____

Part Number: _____ Size: _____

Function: _____

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

II. Identifying the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Items Potentially Involved
Horse TRAILERS	2003	40
Horse TRAILERS	2001-2002	31
MOVIE STAR Rentals	1997-2000	24

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

95

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 15%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment: Percentage of units built for the year

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The Potential defect is associated with the cooling unit at the back of the Refrigeration cabinet.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

A CRACK fracture may develop in the boiler tube.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The coolant could ignite and result in a fire.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

The Boiler Tube must develop a through way fatigue crack of a specific size.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Dometic Corp. 2320 INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY,
ELKHART, INDIANA 46515

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

MR. PATRICK W. McCONNELL Dir. of Eng. & Safety

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

See Domestic

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

HARMAZ INC. IS SENDING A LIST OF DEALERS THAT BOUGHT PROBLEM UNITS, TO DOMETIC AND ALSO SENDING TO EACH DEALER A LIST OF UNITS THAT MAY HAVE 1 OF DOMETIC'S 2562 REFERS

THIS WILL BE DONE DURING THE WEEK OF AUG, 27TH, 2002

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the*

notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.

Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

<http://www.btlaw.com>

Richard W. Paulen

Suite 200
121 West Franklin Street
Elkhart, IN 46516-3200

Switchboard: (574) 293-0681
Fax: (574) 296-2333

August 28, 2008

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, Ret. Rec. Reg.

Ms. Maria Cino
Acting Secretary of Transportation
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Potential Defect Notification
Dometic Corporation

Dear Ms. Cino:

Please find enclosed a Notice of Potential Defect which I am forwarding on behalf of my client, Dometic Corporation ("Dometic") pursuant to 49 CFR, Part 573.6. Please contact either myself or Mr. McConnell, who is identified in the Notice if you have any questions or as you require further information.

Dometic's investigation is ongoing both as to the potential defect and possible remedies. As soon as additional information has been generated, we will provide it to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as required by applicable statutes and regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

Richard W. Paulen

RWP/eaw
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Jon White, Chief, Defects and Recall Information Analysis Division, NHTSA, (w/enc.)
Mr. Patrick N. McConnell, Dometic Corporation (w/enc.) (via e-mail)
Mr. John Waters, Dometic Corporation (w/enc.) (via e-mail)
Mr. Kenth Bengtsson, Dometic Corporation (w/enc.) (via e-mail)
Mr. Manken Skoglund, Dometic Corporation (w/enc.) (via e-mail)
Douglas K. Dieferly, Esq. (w/enc.) (via e-mail)

Chicago Elkhart Fort Wayne Grand Rapids Indianapolis South Bend Washington, D.C.
ELDSD: RWP (443) 11/1

RECEIVED
AUG 29 2008
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

COPY

POTENTIAL DEFECT NOTIFICATION

Dometic Corporation ("Dometic"), a supplier of original equipment for the manufacturers of recreation vehicles has determined during the week of August 18, 2006 that a potential defect may exist in the items of motor vehicle equipment listed below. Dometic is submitting this notification of a potential defect to the National Transportation Safety Administration in accordance with the applicable provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.

Dometic Corporation is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 2320 Industrial Parkway, Elkhart, Indiana 46515. The Dometic products affected by this notice were manufactured by Dometic AB, a Swedish company. The registered agent for Dometic Corporation and Dometic AB is Corporation Service Company, 2711 Centerville Road, Suite 400, Wilmington, Delaware 19808.

The affected Dometic products which may contain the potential defect are two-door refrigerators manufactured between April 1997 and May of 2003. The potentially affected refrigerators have the model designations set forth below:

NDR1062
RM2652
RM2662
RM2663
RM2852
RM2862
RM3662
RM3663
RM3862
RM3863

The possibly affected units will have serial numbers beginning with the following digit combinations:

713xxxxx through 752xxxxx
801xxxxx through 852xxxxx
901xxxxx through 952xxxxx
001xxxxx through 052xxxxx
101xxxxx through 152xxxxx
201xxxxx through 252xxxxx
301xxxxx through 319xxxxx.

The potential defect is associated with cooling unit at the back of the refrigeration cabinet.

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. A boiler fatigue crack with the loss of cooling solution without ignition would result in a non-operational refrigerator that is not a safety issue. Under certain conditions, the released coolant could ignite and result in a fire. In order to have a fire, at a minimum, all of the following conditions must exist:

1. The refrigerator must be on and normally operating and gas burner must be lit;
2. There must be an oversized heating element in the refrigerator;
3. The boiler tube must develop a throughway fatigue crack of a specific size;
4. There must be a release of the cooling solution at a rate which will allow the accumulation of the cooling solution at a concentration within its range of flammability; and

5. There must be ignition source (gas flame) present.

If any of these conditions are not present, a release of the cooling solution will not result in a fire.

In April of 1997 Dometic modified the design of the affected refrigerators by increasing the wattage of the heating element from 325 watts to 354 watts. All production of the affected units from April 1997 through May of 2003 utilized the 354 watt heating element. In May of 2003, in order to improve the operating life of the refrigerators, Dometic returned to the use of the 325 watt heating element which it continues to use today. It is now believed that the use of the higher wattage heater contributed to abnormal fatigue in the boiler tube.

The products in question are all refrigerators used in the original manufacture of recreation vehicles or as replacement equipment for recreation vehicles. The total population of refrigerators potentially containing the defect is 926,877. Dometic estimates a potential maximum incident rate of 0.01% related to boiler fatigue cracks that leak and may result in a fire. There have been no incidents of injury or death related to the affected population of Dometic refrigerators.

Dometic became aware of the occurrence of fires which may have involved their products and retained an independent engineering testing laboratory to fully evaluate and investigate any potential defect in their refrigerators which might result in a fire. A number of returned units were analyzed and microscopic fatigue cracks which could release coolant into the area of the burner were identified in the boiler tube metal in the area of the weld between the heater pocket and boiler tube. Tests simulating the cracks were conducted the week of August 18, 2008 and confirmed a possible cause of fire in

the refrigerators under certain conditions. These test results prompted the preparation of this notice.

Dometic continues to gather information on the potential defect and will forward additional relevant information as it becomes available.

Dometic has not yet identified a proposed remedy for the potential defect. Dometic will continue a testing program designed to identify and evaluate possible remedies. This evaluation will take place both in the United States and in Sweden. Once a remedy has been identified, Dometic will initiate or participate in a remedy campaign initiated by the original equipment manufacturers and aftermarket suppliers who have purchased, sold, and distributed these products. A list of original equipment manufacturers and aftermarket suppliers to whom Dometic has sold the potentially defective refrigerators is being prepared and will be provided to the NHTSA upon its completion.

This notice was prepared by and inquiries should be sent to:

Mr. Patrick N. McConnell, Director
Engineering, Product Safety and Standards
Dometic Corporation
509 South Poplar Street
LaGrange, IN 46761
Phone: 260/463-2191
Fax: 260/463-4179

260-463-7690

DATED this 26th day of August, 2006

Dometic Corporation

By: 
Patrick N. McConnell, Director
Engineering, Product Safety and Standards

SLD/901 RWP 19822762