

# Double Duty RV Conversions, Inc.

23024 Hospital Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031 ♦ 800 235-7517 ♦ Fax: (269) 445-0736 ♦ [ddrv@doubleduty.com](mailto:ddrv@doubleduty.com)

August 29, 2007

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

07V-437  
(7 pages)

Re: "EQ06-019

Dear George H Person

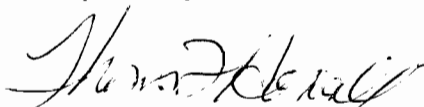
Please find the enclosed Double Duty's Defect Notification Report along with a draft copy of the letter we intend to send to the owners of the potentially defective Dometic refrigerators. Double Duty will obtain owner information from sales record files. The notification will be sent to the owner of record listed in the sales record files.

Double Duty will begin researching sales records from April 1997 through May 2000 to determine which living quarters may have a refrigerator listed in this recall. The information will be collected in a database and we will begin to send out letters of notification.

Double Duty will require approximately 4-6 weeks to research sales record files and an additional 2-4 to notify the owners and dealers.

Please advise us if any further action is required.

Respectfully,



Thomas F Horrall  
President

RECEIVED

2007 SEP 10 A 10:35

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Enclosure

**Serving your trailer needs now....and in the future**

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## Potential Defect Notification Report

Double Duty R.V. Conversions, Inc. is an original equipment manufacturer. We install living quarters in a variety horse trailers and cargo trailers. From the beginning date of this potential recall, April 1997, to the spring of 2001 Double Duty R.V. Conversions, Inc. was also a horse trailer a dealer, selling new and used horse trailers with and without Double Duty living quarters.

Double Duty R.V. Conversions, Inc. installed Dometic refrigerators into living quarters built from April 1997 through 2000.

Double Duty's customer base is made up primarily of horse trailer dealers however; we do some work with retail customers.

As of the date of this report, we have not received any communications from Dometic regarding this recall.

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## **Safety Recall – Owner Notification Letter – DRAFT**

[Date]

[Insert Customer Name and Address]

Dear Sir or Madam:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Dometic Corporation, a supplier of original equipment for the manufactures of recreation vehicles has submitted notification of a potential defect to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Double Duty R.V. Conversions, Inc. received notification and explanation of the potential defect from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

After a through search of our records, we have determined that you may own one of the Dometic refrigerators listed in this potential recall.

Please read the enclosed Potential Defect Notification that was prepared by Dometic to determine if your refrigerator is part of this potential recall.

We regret any inconvenience, which this action may cause you. However, we are concerned about your safety.

Sincerely,

Thomas F Horrall  
President

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## 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, 2006 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

DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2006

Dometic Corporation

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

EI.DS01 RWP 198227-1