

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report⁽¹⁾

07V-440
(8 pages)

In March of 2007, Dometic notified Transport Designs, Inc. a vehicle manufacturer and converter as well as offering wholesale sales of a potential defect to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with the applicable provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.

Date this report was prepared: 9/14/2007

The affected Dometic products which may contain the potential defects 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

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Transport Designs, Inc.
240 Streibeigh Lane
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

Telephone Number: 570.368.1403

Fax No.: 570.368.2398

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Stephen Mattie , President

Signed:

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

Transport Designs “Prolite” or “Silver Eagle” motor coaches and Sales to Individuals for use in their personal Vehicles.

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

The only way to identify which vehicle is to research the serial number inside the refrigerator.

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. Identify the Recall Population

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

Number of Vehicles – 28

Model Year Potentially Involved

1997-2003

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 12

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:

43%

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 vehicles:

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.

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

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 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 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 a gas burner must be lit.
2. There must be an oversized heating element in the refrigerator.
3. The boiler tube must develop a throughway 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.
5. There must be an ignition source (gas flame) present.

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

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

Fire. See above for description.

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

None that Transport Designs has been made aware of.

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

Dometic Corporation
509 South Poplar St.
LaGrange, IN 46761

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

Mr. Patrick N. McConnell, Director of Engineering
Product Safety and Standards

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.

In April 1997 Dometic modified the design of the affected refrigerators by increasing the wattage of the heating element from 325 watts to 354 watts. All the production of the affected units from April 1997 to March 2003 utilized the 354 watt heating element. In May 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 element contributed to abnormal fatigue in the boiler tube.

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 refrigerator that might result in fire. Testing simulating fatigue cracks were conducted the week of August 18, 2006 and confirmed a possible cause of fire in the refrigerator under certain conditions.

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.

Dometic Corporation will without cost to the consumer install a rework kit to remedy the situation.

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

Transport Designs has no inside knowledge of the replacement component(s) that are to be installed by authorized repair facilities for Dometic.

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.

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 that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

1. 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.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: *This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.*