

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report<sup>1</sup>**

07V-494  
(7 pages)

On August 28, 2006, Dometic [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. \_\_\_\_\_) exists in the motor vehicles 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: October, 2007

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

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.

Corporate Service Co, 2711 Centerville Road,  
Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19808

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

Mr. Patrick N. McConnell, Director,  
Engineering, Product Safety & Standards, Dometic Corporation

Telephone Number: 260-463-2191 Fax No.: 260-463-4179

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Kim Martley  
KES, Inc, Bookkeeper

PO Box 316  
Humeston, IA 50123  
641-877-6551  
1-800-433-4159

Signed: Kim Martley

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

**I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall**

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Domestic Model Years Involved: 1997-2003 Model(s): 713xxxxx through 752xxxxx → NDR1062  
Production Dates: Beginning: 4/1997 Ending: 5/2003 801xxxxx through 852xxxxx RM2652  
VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_ 901xxxxx through 952xxxxx RM2662  
Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_ 001xxxxx through 052xxxxx RM2663  
101xxxxx through 152xxxxx RM2852  
201xxxxx through 252xxxxx RM2862  
301xxxxx through 319xxxxx RM3662  
RM3663  
RM3862  
RM3863

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

Recalled refrigerators have 2 doors and are gas & electric.

Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Model Years Involved: \_\_\_\_\_ Model(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Production Dates: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

VIN Range: Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_ Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Bodystyle: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

U/A

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

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

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
All	4/1997 - 4/1999	information is not available. We had a fire at our business/building & lost everything, including records
All	1999	11
All	2000	11
All	2001	8
All	2002	13
All	2003	19

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 62

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: no idea

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:

Per a letter from Dometic Corp, all recalled refrigerators had a wattage of 354 watts.

### 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.

Under some circumstances, a fatigue crack can develop in the boiler tube of the identified refrigerators, which can permit the release of pressurized coolant solution. If this solution is exposed to an ignition source under specified circumstances, it can result in a vehicle fire.

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

Fatigue, age, wear, weather conditions, using LP gas, or electricity

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

Loss of cooling, Fire, possibly death

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

Leakage or straining at the back of the refrigerator; Yellow residue at the back or sides of the refrigerator, smell of ammonia, refrigerator does not properly cool.

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

PO Box 490

Elkhart, IN 46515

(574) 389-3723, [www.dometicusa.com](http://www.dometicusa.com)

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

Patrick N. McConnell, Director of Engineering, Products Safety & Standards  
Dometic Corp.

**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.

N/A

**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 has developed a reword for this potential defect, which involves the installation of a secondary burner housing and certain fuses that will prevent this condition from leading to a fire outside the burner area. The kit was created with ease of installation in mind, all parts are included in a kit, and no unusual tools are necessary.

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

There is a secondary burner housing and certain fuses that will prevent this condition from leading to a fire outside the burner area. Unlike the defective unit- which had nothing to stop the fire.

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.

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. In May of 2003, Dometic returned to the use of the 325 watt heating element which it continues to use today. It is believed that the use of the higher wattage heater contributed to the abnormal fatigue in the boiler tube.

**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.

Letters will be sent out to our customers by 12/31/07.

Foreseeable Issues:

- D & S Trailer, who purchased seven trailers with recalled refrigerators is no longer in business
- KES, Inc. is not a Dometic Dealer. We are an Original equipment Manuf. We are not authorized to make repairs nor are we interested in being set up to do so.

**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.

*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 maybe 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.*