

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report³

On July 7, 2008, Rexhall Ind., Inc. [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: July 10, 2008

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): EQ08-010

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.

Rexhall Industries, Inc.

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

Mark Santiago, Director of Consumer Affairs

Telephone Number: (661) 726-0565 Fax No.: (661) 726-5811

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Mark Santiago
Dir, Consumer Affairs

Signed: MSantiago

³Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

To be determined- Currently researching
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): _____ 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:

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. _____

To be determined - Currently researching.

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

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: _____

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

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:

Rexhall is in the process of identifying the specific motorhomes manufactured around the time it purchased the 4 potentially affected units (refrigs). The models will be determined using the dates Rexhall purchased the potentially affected refrigerators. The start dates coincide with the purchase of the refrigerators and the end dates coincide w/ the estimated (over-estimated) time frames that the subject refrigerators would have been installed.

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.

Said descriptions have been already been articulated and submitted to NHTSA by Dometic corp. Attached hereto, please find said document w/ descriptions.

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

(See above).

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

(See above).

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

(See above).

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

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

Brad Sargent; Patrick N. McConnell

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.

*6/26/08 Rexhall received notification from Dometic
6/27/08 I emailed Brad Sargent for Dometic's query on any
subject refrigerators purchased by Rexhall. Dometic's query
showed 4 purchased by Rexhall. Upon review Rexhall
determined it had purchased the 4 refrig's. No reports,
accidents, injuries, fatalities, etc. located by Rexhall.*

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.

(Please see answer to #5 above)

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

(Please see answer to #5 above)

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.

After the 4 potentially affected refrigerators were purchased from Dometic, no more have been purchased, or, therefore, installed in Rexhall's production.

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.

Rexhall daily researches its files to identify the specific vehicle range wherein it may locate the 4 potentially affected refrigs. Upon identification of ranges, which time frame is uncertain presently, Rexhall will forward all contact information of customers and their dealers to Dometic (Stericycle) who is conducting the notification mailings.

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. Upon identification and forwarding to Dometic, they will draft the notice and provide to NHTSA.
Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

Dometic 08E-032 (5 pages)

April 11, 2008

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL, Ret. Rec. Req.

Mr. Dan Smith
Associate Administrator of Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590



Dear Mr. Smith:

Please find enclosed a Notification of Defect which Dometic Corporation is submitting pursuant to 49CFR, Part 573.6.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you require additional information at

We are continuing the preparation of media documents for your approval and the acquisition of the customer, dealer, and OEM lists for this population of products. The customer, dealer, and OEM lists will be submitted under application and request for confidentiality to your lead counsel as soon as these are completed.

The remedy identified in the original recall 06E076 will be employed for this recall expansion. Only the serial numbers for these units will be different, as the model numbers are all the same. If you elect to identify a new and second recall campaign for this additional population of refrigerators, please notify us of the new campaign number as soon as possible so that it can be added to the instructions for remedy kits and the repair service claim card that each customer **must** fill out and return when their refrigerator is serviced. This will enable us to effectively place the remedy and repair for our customers on an available status within two-to-three weeks of this notification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Patrick N. McConnell

Dometic Corporation

Director Engineering, Product Safety, & Standards

RECEIVED
2008 APRIL 15
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

cc: Mr. John Waters, Dometic Corporation (via email)

Mr. Brad Sargent, Dometic Corporation (via email)

Mr. Kenth Bengtsson, Dometic Corporation (via email)

Mr. Doug Dieterly, Esq, Barnes and Thornburg (via email)

Mr. Richard Paulen, Barnes and Thornburg (via email)

POTENTIAL DEFECT NOTIFICATION

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

Dometic Corporation ("Dometic") 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 a potential defect are two-door refrigerators manufactured between June 1 of 2003 and September 30 of 2006. The potentially affected refrigerators have the model designations set forth below:

RM-2652xxxxx
RM-2662xxxxx
RM-3662xxxxx
RM-3663xxxxx
RM-2852xxxxx
RM-2862xxxxx
RM-3862xxxxx
NDR-1062xxxxx

RM 2663

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

320xxxxx through 352xxxxx
401xxxxx through 452xxxxx
501xxxxx through 552xxxxx
601xxxxx through 639xxxxx

The potential safety related defect is associated with the cooling unit at the back of the refrigerator cabinet. A fractional percentage of the potentially affected refrigerators have experienced a fatigue crack in the area of the welds between the boiler tube and the heater pockets. A fatigue crack may release a sufficient amount of pressurized coolant solution into an area where an ignition source is present. Under certain limited 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;
2. The boiler tube must develop a throughway fatigue crack within a specific size range;
3. There must be a release of the cooling solution at a rate which will allow the accumulation of the cooling solution at a concentration and temperature within its range of flammability;
and
4. There must be ignition source present

If any of these conditions are not present, a release of the cooling solution will not result in a fire. A boiler fatigue crack with a loss of cooling solution without ignition would result in a non-operational refrigerator and does not present a fire safety issue.

For the population of product with the models and serial number range shown above from the 20th week of 2003 through the 39th week of 2006, a potential inconsistent weld process may have contributed to the weld fatigue resulting in a crack of the boiler to heater pocket welds or in the boiler tube on cooling units manufactured or warehoused during this period.

Increased market demand required a new production line with new state-of-the art technology to be introduced and the old production line to be updated with the same new technology between the end of 2005 through January of 2006. This improvement in technology and the streamlining of the production weld process significantly reduced the variability of the boiler to heater pocket seam welds. By September 30, 2006 all quantities of cooling units manufactured prior to the introduction of the new production line technology having the potential safety related defect were used and no longer in inventory.

The list of products shown above are all refrigerators used in the original manufacture of recreation vehicles as well as replacement equipment for recreation vehicles. The total population of these refrigerators potentially containing the defect is 745,574. Dometic estimates that as many as 0.005% may develop weld or boiler fatigue cracks which may result in a fire. There are no incidents of death related to the affected population of Dometic refrigerators.

Dometic has continued to review claims subsequent to NHTSA recall campaign 06E-076 to verify the integrity of the rationale and to make certain that other contributing factors were not present that could cause fatigue on units beyond the original recall population and dates. This review revealed that microscopic cracks could randomly be

found in the boiler metal in the area of the weld between the heater pocket and boiler tube which could release coolant into the area of the burner. These findings have resulted in the preparation of this notice.

The field remedy used for the Dometic recall 06E-076 is equally effective for use on this population of product and will be deployed in identical fashion as previously identified. Dometic, along with conducting their own recall campaign, will participate in the remedy campaigns initiated by the original equipment manufacturers. A list of original equipment manufacturers to whom Dometic has sold the potentially defective refrigerators will be forwarded as Exhibit "A" upon its preparation.

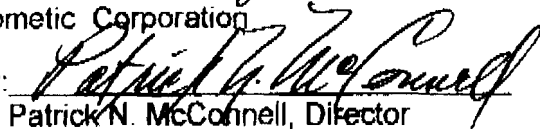
This notice was prepared by and inquiries should be sent to:

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 11th of April 2008

Dometic Corporation

By:



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