



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 18, 2009

MR. BOB TIFFIN  
PRESIDENT  
TIFFIN MOTORHOMES, INC.  
PO BOX 596  
RED BAY, AL 35582

NVS-215dgl  
09V-443

**SUBJECT: REFRIGERATOR/FIRE/NORCOLD**

**DEAR MR. TIFFIN:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:** To be provided

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 17, 2009

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 09V-443

**Components:** EQUIPMENT: RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 528

**Summary:**

TIFFIN IS RECALLING CERTAIN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE EQUIPPED WITH NORCOLD MODEL 1200LR AND 1200LRIM REFRIGERATORS, MANUFACTURED FROM DECEMBER 1, 2001, WITH SERIAL NUMBERS BETWEEN 1273701 AND 1536607, NON-CONSECUTIVELY. A FATIGUE FAILURE IN THE SECTION OF THE COOLING UNIT WHICH CONTAINS THE REFRIGERANT COULD ALLOW THE LIQUID SOLUTION TO SLOWLY LEAK. IF A LEAK OCCURS AND THE REFRIGERATOR CONTINUES TO BE OPERATED AFTER SOLUTION CIRCULATION HAS CEASED THE HEAT SOURCE COULD GENERATE VERY HIGH TEMPERATURES. AT SUCH HIGH TEMPERATURES, THE COOLING UNIT COULD RUPTURE.

**Consequence:**

IF A LEAK OCCURS AND THE UNIT IS CONTINUES TO OPERATE, HYDROGEN GAS MAY BE EXPELLED AND CAN BE IGNITED, RESULTING IN A FIRE, POSSIBLY CAUSING SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

**Remedy:**

TIFFIN IS WORKING WITH NORCOLD AND TIFFIN WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND THE VEHICLE'S REFRIGERATOR WILL BE REPAIRED FREE OF CHARGE BY NORCOLD. PLEASE SEE NORCOLD'S DEFECT REPORT 09E-027. OWNERS MAY CONTACT NORCOLD'S RECALL CENTER AT 1-800-767-9101.

**Notes:**

OWNERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

This recall was the subject of an Equipment Query, EQ-08-009, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

We have reviewed your proposed owner letter and it meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577.

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Please provide us with the names of the models, model year along with beginning dates for the build date range of the vehicles affected by this recall.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in your report, Norcold will be handling the remedy, and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Norcold's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

Your contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement