



A Division of Forest River Inc.

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On November 19, 2010, Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division, Division of Forest River Inc. identified a potential defect which relates to motor vehicle safety in items of motor vehicle equipment 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: November 22, 2010

Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division has determined in cooperation with Norcold Inc, that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2010 and 2011 Brookstone Fifth Wheels produced by Coachmen RV, Division of Forest River Inc. Some of our Brookstones were equipped with Norcold gas/electric refrigerators supplied by Norcold Inc. should be recalled. Only vehicles equipped with Norcold Refrigerators whose model numbers begin with 1210 are affected. Coachmen RV has determined that 371 Brookstone Fifth Wheel units with the identified model refrigerators have been delivered to our dealer network.

Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division and Norcold suspects that all of the model 1210 refrigerators installed in the Brookstone fifth wheels must be recalled due to the potential of a fire caused by the sensing algorithm or thermal switch for the cooling unit being slow to react to high temperatures that would interrupt power to the refrigerator.

Coachmen is conducting a safety recall campaign to correct this issue. As published by Norcold, the remedy is to affix a thermocouple with a faster response time to all refrigerators equipped with a sensing algorithm or thermal switch.

If you have any questions please contact: Mike Vanderpool, Service and Warranty Manager, Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division at 574 825 8360

Coachmen RV, Division of Forest River Inc.

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Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Michael Vanderpool, Service & Warranty

Manager

Signed:

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

Norcold Model 1210 Refrigerator

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Norcold model 1210 gas/electric refrigerator is a gas absorption unit which are sold for application in Recreational Vehicles (RV'S) The refrigerators with a serial number between 315525 and 13088811, having a cooling unit with a serial number between 700000 and 13085759 are recalled.

In summary the recall relates to a sensing algorithm or thermal switch component that will interrupt power to the refrigerator when it detects high temperatures that could lead to a fire.

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 Equipment equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Equipment of all Equipment manufactured during that time period.

The 1210 model refrigerator is a product line that went into Coachmen production on July 15, 2009 57 % of the Brookstone Fifth Wheel units built though October 28, 2010 are subject to recall

II. Identifying the Recall Population

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

Number of Items Model – Norcold 1210 Year –2009 – 2010

Potentially Involved – 371 Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 371

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Approximately 100%

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 items of equipment:

The population was determined based in the receipt dates of the product from the supplier and production dates of the units. Also a record of model and serial numbers of appliances are recorded in the unit file.

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.

The sensing algorithm or thermal switch designed to interrupt power to the refrigerator may be defective

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

Our current understanding is that the sending algorithm or thermal switch may be slow to interrupt power to the refrigerator when high temperature is detected.

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

The defect could lead to a fire which could cause injury or death due to a fire

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

Smoke or fire alarm from the safety equipment installed in the Fifth Wheel Refrigerators with cooling unit serial numbers within the range of 700000 and 13085759 should be instructed not to operate their refrigerator until it can be properly repaired.

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

The refrigerator is an appliance purchased from :

Norcold Inc.

600 S. Kuther Rd
P.O. Box 180
Sidney, OH 45365
Phone: 937-497-3080
Fax: 937-497-3085

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

George Strasburg, Manager of Corporate Product Reliability. 800 444 7210

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.

Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division was notified by a dealer on November 17, 2010 that a recall was received from Norcold on the Model 1200,1201,1210 and 1211 refrigerators. Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division contacted Norcold about the recall on November 17,2010.

We received information from Norcold on the recall via email on November 17, 2010. The recall references supercedes previous Norcold recall numbers 02E-045, 08E-030, 09E-026 and 09E-027

Coachmen Fifth Wheel Division has not received any reports of accidents, injuries, fatalities or warranty claims to date.

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.

We received information from Norcold on the recall via email on November 17, 2010. The recall references supercedes previous Norcold recall numbers 02E-045, 08E-030, 09E-026 and 09E-027

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.

Appliance supplier, Norcold Inc: Has retrofitted the thermal sensor in the refrigerator.

AT SOURCE IN PRODUCTION:

At the point of control in the Coachmen Mfg Facility, the installers verify that the refrigerators comply with the information received from Norcold Inc which is as follows. Refrigerators or system packs that either have a blue label mounted on the solution chamber of the cooling unit that reads "Equipped with thermal sensor #P-010, or a yellow tag attached to the ground wire of the High Temperature Sensor that reads" Retrofitted with thermal sensor # R-0xx are not effected in the recall.

IN COACHMEN WAREHOUSE

- a) Refrigerators not yet installed: **Same as above**
- b) Refrigerators installed in RVs

For units that were sold to dealers, the effected refrigerators will be retrofitted with a recall kit #634737. Norcold will ship the retro kits directly to the dealers at no charge.

Dealer service technicians will be supplied with work instructions, a video and the appropriate tools to replicate the test in b) on units in dealer lots and on units already delivered to customers.

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

Future unit shipments will have the new thermal sensor switch installed on model 1210
Norcold Refrigerators

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.

The Production remedy is identical to the AT SOURCE/IN PRODUCTION recall remedy. The product has not been discontinued

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Future actions are being taken in terms of implementing field recalls through our dealer network and customer base. As of this writing, the anticipated schedule is as follows (Note the dates are on or before):

Coachmen will notify our dealer base of the defect beginning the week of November 29, 2010 and expect that all letters are sent by overnight mail on or before December 3, 2010

Week of December 6, 2010 Owners will be notified

Coachmen will submit a draft Owner Letter in accordance with Part 577 for agency review five business days prior to mailing.

Coachmen does not foresee problems in implementing the recall. Coachmen has a full list of all the serial numbers of the affected refrigerator units and can identify dealer location of each of Coachmen Fifth Wheel Units sold.

. Coachmen in cooperation with Norcold will work with the dealers and the Retail RV customers to ensure that each of the Norcold model 1210 refrigerators installed in our Brookstone Fifth Wheels is checked and cleared or retrofitted by an appropriately trained technician. There will be no cost to the Retail customer.

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) or by E-Mail (RMD.ODI@dot.gov) for review prior to mailing.

Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.