



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 10, 2011

MR. STEVEN REAMES
PURCHASING
MARATHON HOMES CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 1302, PINECREEK INDUSTRIAL PARK
ELKHART, IN 46515

NVS-215kjs
11V-080

SUBJECT: REFRIGERATORS/POSSIBLE FIRE/NORCOLD

DEAR MR. REAMES:

This letter serves to acknowledge Marathon Homes Corporation's (Marathon) 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:
MARATHON/CUSTOM 2- ROOM/2003

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-080 **Mfg's Report Date:** January 26, 2011

Components: EQUIPMENT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1

Summary:
MARATHON HOMES CORP. (MARATHON) IS RECALLING ONE MOTORHOME, MODEL YEAR 2003 CUSTOM 2 - ROOM, EQUIPPED WITH A 1200-SERIES NORCOLD REFRIGERATOR. THE REFRIGERATOR BEING ADDRESSED CONTAINS EITHER A SENSING ALGORITHM OR THERMAL SWITCH TO SHUT OFF POWER TO THE REFRIGERATOR WHEN HIGH TEMPERATURES ARE DETECTED IN ORDER TO PREVENT A POTENTIAL FIRE. THE RESPONSE TIMES OF THE SENSOR ALGORITHM AND THERMAL SWITCH DEVICES TO STOP POWER ARE NOT SUFFICIENT.

Consequence:

THE SENSING ALGORITHM OR THERMAL SWITCH INSTALLED TO SHUT OFF POWER TO THE REFRIGERATOR WHEN HIGH TEMPERATURES ARE DETECTED DUE TO A POSSIBLE HYDROGEN GAS LEAK MAY NOT SHUT OFF IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREVENT A FIRE.

Remedy:

MARTHON IS WORKING WITH NORCOLD TO IDENTIFY AND NOTIFY THE AFFECTED OWNER. THE OWNER WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT A NORCOLD DEALER TO RECEIVE THE REMEDY FREE OF CHARGE. PLEASE SEE NORCOLD'S DEFECT REPORT 10E-049 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED AN OWNER NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS MAY CONTACT NORCOLD AT 1-800-767-9101.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY 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).

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:

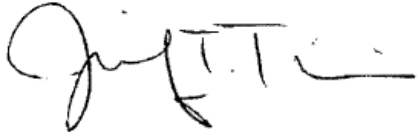
You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is expected owners will be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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 owner notification, 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 Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for the successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement