



January 27, 2011

Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Recall number 10E049: Recreational Vehicles Equipped with Certain  
Defective Refrigerators Manufactured by Norcold, Inc.

Dear Mr. Smith:

Fleetwood RV, Inc. has been notified by Norcold, Inc., that certain refrigerators supplied to Fleetwood for installation as original equipment on recreational vehicles may contain a safety-related defect. On the basis of information supplied by Norcold, Fleetwood is submitting this report in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 573.

**Products Affected**

This recall involves refrigerators manufactured by Norcold, Inc.:

Mr. George Strasburg  
Norcold, Inc.  
600 S. Kuther Road, P.O. Box 180  
Sidney, OH 45365  
Telephone: 937-497-3080  
Fax: 937-497-3085

In October 2010, Norcold determined that a sensing algorithm or a thermal switch, designed to shut off power to the refrigerator when high temperatures are detected, have insufficient response times necessary to sense threshold temperatures and stop power to the refrigerator before a fire may occur.

According to a letter from Norcold to Fleetwood RV, Inc., affected refrigerators, which include models 1200, 1201, 1210 and 1211, have serial numbers from 315525 to 13088811, non-consecutively, have cooling unit serial numbers from 700000 and 13085759, non-consecutively, and were manufactured between December 1996 and October 6, 2010.

According to Fleetwood RV, Inc's records, the following vehicles shipped by Fleetwood RV, Inc., may have been equipped with the subject refrigerators:

<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Manufacture Dates</u>
2010-2011	Southwind	5/19/2010 to 1/13/2011
2010	Bounder	5/29/2010 to 11/10/2009
2009	American Allegiance	9/9/2009
2009	Discovery	9/10/2009
2009	Revolution L.E.	9/4/2009

Approximately 88 Fleetwood RV, Inc., motor homes manufactured with the subject Norcold refrigerators are affected. Norcold has not provided the approximate percentage of the subject refrigerators that may actually contain the defect. Fleetwood cannot estimate the number of vehicles that are likewise affected.

## **Description of Defect**

Norcold reported that the population of refrigerators being addressed contains either a sensing algorithm or a thermal switch to interrupt power to the refrigerator when it detects high temperatures that could lead to a fire. The defect being addressed is the response time of the sensing algorithm and the thermal switch. The remedy is to affix a thermocouple, with a faster response time, to all refrigerators equipped with a sensing algorithm or a thermal switch

## **Chronological Summary of Events**

On January 21, 2010 Fleetwood RV, Inc., ("FRV") received a letter forwarded from Fleetwood Enterprises, Inc., advising "FRV" of Norcold's determination that the subject refrigerators contain a safety-related defect, and describing Norcold's program for remedying the defective products. On the basis of Norcold's determination, "FRV" decided to submit this defect notice in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573.

## **Program for Remedying the Defect**

Norcold has arranged to conduct a recall to remedy the potential defect in Fleetwood RV Inc.'s vehicles at no charge to vehicle owners. Please refer to Recall number 10E-049 for details regarding Norcold's recall campaign and proposed remedy. Fleetwood RV, Inc., will provide Norcold's representative with owner information for purposes of notification. Pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6(c)(8)(i) and 573.13, owners will be advised that Norcold will reimburse them if they have incurred costs to obtain a remedy for a refrigerator containing such a defect prior to their receipt of the notification.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Craig Biazio  
National Warranty Manager  
Fleetwood RV, Inc.