

POTENTIAL DEFECT NOTIFICATION

Dometic Corporation, (“Dometic”), manufactures and sells a diverse range of products for use in recreational vehicles, trucks and premium cars, pleasure and workboats, and for a variety of other uses has determined during the week of June 20th, 2020 that a potential defect may exist in items of original or replacement equipment listed below. Dometic is submitting this notification of a potential defect to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration in accordance with the applicable provisions of 49 CFR Part 573.

Dometic Corporation is a Delaware Corporation located at 5155 Verdant Dr., Elkhart, IN. 46516. The Dometic products affected by this notice were manufactured by a Dometic Corporation affiliate in Zhuhai, China. The registered agent for Dometic Corporation is The Corporation Trust Company, 1209 Orange Street, Corporation Trust Center, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

The affected Dometic products which may contain the potential defect are portable chest type compressor refrigerator/freezer units, otherwise known as “powered coolers or electric coolers” (“coolers”), manufactured between December 2019 and June 2020. The potentially affected coolers have the model designations set forth below:

CFX3 35

CFX3 45

CFX3 55IM

CFX3 75DZ

CFX3 95DZ

CFX3 100

The products in question are all “CFX3 coolers” with serial numbers between MO19112673 and MO20040857 used in Original Equipment manufacture of recreation vehicles or as replacement equipment for recreation vehicles, commercial vehicles, marine, and retail. The total population of these products with the potential defect is 5,533. There have been no incidents of injury or death involving these products.

The following product defect is not present in any other Dometic coolers.

The detailed description of the defect, determined to be safety related, is associated with the control system.

The defect enunciation can occur in a mobile environment, such as a recreational vehicle or commercial vehicle, only when the CFX3 series unit is connected to both

onboard 120VAC and 12VDC circuits/sockets. When the 12VDC supply is switched off and there are additional 12VDC devices in line with the cooler, a protection device can fail and allow the AC/DC power supply to back feed 28V through the cooler to some or all the other DC appliances (such as AC, water pump, lights, furnace, etc.) that are connected to the 12VDC system. DC appliances on the same DC circuit may therefore fail from a voltage overload. Although no fire has been reported or observed and is extremely unlikely, the voltage overload may cause electrical damage and local charring damage to such appliances and immediately surrounding materials.

Potential use cases, although rare, which can lead to this failure can happen when the CFX3 Cooler is connect to BOTH AC AND DC power and:

1. While connected to AC power, something causes the master fuse on the DC circuit to trip, removing DC power from the DC circuit;
2. While connected to AC power, user chooses to turn off the vehicle's 12VDC power system; or
3. While the vehicle's 12VDC power system is turned off, user turns on the vehicle's generator or inverter.

Dometic became aware of the potential of circuit feedback from a dealer and OEM in late May 2020 and launched an investigation to determine whether the claims from both sources were accurate. Dometic tested products on June 9th – June 15th to determine if a potential defect, that could be safety related, existed in the control system of the new CFX3 Series products. After testing results were shared in a meeting held June 15th and Dometic confirmed that circuit feedback could occur only in the very limited circumstance where the subject coolers were dually connected to both AC and DC circuits (as noted above), Dometic made the decision to prepare this Defect Notification.

Dometic is continuing to gather facts on the potential defect and will forward additional relevant information as it becomes available. Dometic has NOT yet identified a proposed remedy or remedies designed to mitigate the defect but will advise NHTSA of such remedy or remedies at the time they are identified. Dometic will further initiate a remedy campaign on the CFX3 “coolers” or participate in remedy campaigns for the CFX3 “coolers” launched by Original Equipment Manufacturers who have purchased, sold and distributed these products. Dometic will follow up this Defect Notification by supplying confirmation of the serial number range of products in the affected population, the customer lists for these “coolers”, and of course the remedy activity to take place with its customers. Dometic will file OEM letters, Dealer Letters, Retail letters, and end user letters in accordance with 49 CFR, 573.

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

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