



**Via e-mail and UPS**

October 11, 2012

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: ODI/Recall Management Div. (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Section 573.6(c) Information Report; Thermo King TriPac Auxiliary  
Power Unit

Dear Administrator:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 573.6(c), Thermo King Corp. ("Thermo King") submits the following information:

(1) Thermo King Corporation  
314 W. 90th St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55420

(2)(iii) TriPac Auxiliary Power Unit ("TriPac APU")

The TriPac APU provides tractor engine preheating, battery charging, tractor cab sleeper compartment climate control, and electric power. This report involves 3,720 TriPac APUs that Thermo King manufactured between July 29 and November 7, 2011 (serial number range 3000106335 to 3000127584). To reduce overall weight, these units were equipped with a new maintenance access panel consisting of a lighter-gauge metal than had been used on previous TriPac APUs. Because of customer complaints of damage to the new panel during handling and installation, Thermo King discontinued use of this panel in November 2011 and reverted to the heavier-gauge material used reliably on earlier TriPac APUs. As explained below, the performance of the lighter-gauge panel is the basis for this report.

(2)(v) With the exception of the customer named below, Thermo King does not sell this equipment directly to any vehicle or original equipment manufacturers for installation in their motor vehicles. Sales are through independent dealers or other commercial customers for sale to their customers, with installations performed by Thermo King dealers, their customers, or third parties.

Daimler Trucks North America  
4747 Channel Ave.  
Portland, OR 97217  
Phone (503) 745-800

(3) The total number of affected units sold by Thermo King: 3,720

(4) Estimated percentage of units actually containing the defect: Unknown

(5) The TriPac APU attaches to the tractor frame rail and may be mounted at various locations on the driver or passenger side of the tractor. Thermo King suspects that wind/air turbulence at highway speeds may cause deflections in the lighter-gauge maintenance panel which could dislodge a locating tab from its mounting slot on the APU. If the tab were dislodged, the panel would remain attached to the TriPac APU by two retaining bolts. However, if unobserved by the vehicle operator, continued wind/air turbulence could further flex the panel and potentially cause it to separate from the retaining bolts. Complete separation of the panel from the TriPac APU could create a road hazard.

(6) Thermo King began receiving reports of possible field failure of the panels in January 2012. Through August 2012 Thermo King had received 19 warranty claims describing a missing or separated panel after the vehicle was in service. Thermo King has not received any reports of damage resulting from the panel. In a communication issued in April 2012, Thermo King instructed dealers to inspect and replace panels that measured below a certain thickness. The planned recall will supersede this previous bulletin.

(7) N/A

(8)(i) Dealers will be instructed to replace the lighter-gauge panel on TriPac APUs with a heavier-gauge panel that has been used reliably on previous TriPac APUs.

Thermo King has determined that, to the extent any potentially affected TriPac APU may have been remedied prior to this notification, the remedy would have been performed under Thermo King's warranty at no expense to the owner. Therefore, a general pre-notification reimbursement notice should not be necessary.

(8)(ii) Currently, Thermo King expects to begin notification by October 19, 2012 and expects to complete the notification by October 29, 2012. Thermo King will notify NHTSA if this schedule should be delayed by more than two weeks.

(9) N/A

(10) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins, etc. will be provided to NHTSA. Thermo King will provide a draft notification letter to NHTSA for review.

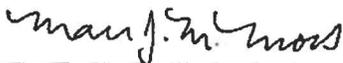
(11) Thermo King will promptly notify NHTSA if Thermo King assigns a campaign number different than the identification number assigned by NHTSA.

Thermo King appreciates your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

THERMO KING CORPORATION

BY:



Marc J.M. Moss  
Chief Counsel