

**INITIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAX SHEET OF RECEIPT OF DEFECT
INFORMATION REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER 49 CFR**

Assigned Recall No. 99E-036 by the
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

OCT 9 1999

Part 573 Report Date: October 6 and 15, 1999

MANUFACTURER: Norcold Inc.

MANUFACTURER CONTACT: Mr. Ronald L. Riethman, President

FAX: (937) 497-3167

SUBJECT: 117,793 Norcold Model 322/323 gas/electric absorption refrigerators used in recreational vehicles and camping trailers and manufactured from August 1992 through August 15, 1999 and 9,242 Model N260, N260.3, N300, and N300.3 units manufactured from April 1998 through August 26, 1999. The swivel nut which is an integral connection component of a pressure tap device has "stress corrosion cracking." This cracking can lead to an open fracture in the brass nut, potentially allowing propane gas to leak.

This is an initial acknowledgment for this recall. A formal acknowledgment letter will be forthcoming shortly. After our review of your report and associated documents, we may have additional comments or concerns.

We have reviewed your proposed owner/dealer notification letters and they meet the requirements of Part 577.

As stated in Part 573.6, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. The current quarter began October 1 and ends on December 31, 1999. If owner notification occurs during this time period, the first quarterly report will be due in this office by January 30, 2000.

If you have any questions, please call:



Patricia Wallace, Recall Analyst on (202) 366-5232 or
Jonathan White, Chief on (202) 366-5226
or Fax at (202) 366-7882
Recall Analysis Division

MAR 23 2000

Mr. Ronald L. Riethman
President
Norcold, Inc.
600 South Kuther Road
Sidney, OH 45365

NSA-11kjs
99E-036

Dear Mr. Riethman:

After review of the file concerning this recall, it appears that an acknowledgment letter was never sent to you. Please accept our apologies for this oversight.

We have reviewed Norcold, Inc.'s (Norcold) Defect Information Report dated October 6, 1999, submitted in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." This recall involves 127,035 Norcold refrigerators manufactured and sold between August 1992 and August 26, 1999. The swivel nut which is an integral connection component of a pressure tap device has "stress corrosion cracking." This cracking can lead to an open fracture in the brass nut, potentially allowing propane gas to leak. The assigned ID Number for this recall campaign is 99E-036.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kelly Schuler at (202) 366-5227 or fax at (202) 366-7882.

Sincerely,



Jonathan D. White, Chief
Recall Analysis Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Safety Assurance