

09V-312  
(2 pages)



Fleetwood RV, Inc.  
1010 Commerce Drive, P.O. Box 1007  
Decatur, Indiana 46733

July 24, 2009

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 09E-027 of 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

RECEIVED  
2009 JUL 28 A 11:00  
OFFICE OF DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION

On July 22, 2002, Norcold announced and undertook a motor vehicle equipment safety recall to address a potential fatigue failure in cooling units made by Norcold serving as components in Norcold refrigerator model numbers 1200LR and 1200LRIM built from December 1, 1996 to February 28, 1999. On March 25, 2008, Norcold determined that this recall should be extended to embrace cooling units made by Norcold serving as components in Norcold models 1200LR, 1200LRIM and 1201LRIM manufactured from March 1, 1999 to February 28, 2001.

In May 2009, Norcold determined that recall 08E-030 should be extended to embrace cooling units made by Norcold serving as components in Norcold models 1200LR, 1200LRIM and 1201LRIM manufactured from March 1, 2001 to December 31, 2002 under NHTSA recall number 09E-027. Each cooling unit under this extension has a serial number between 1273701 and 1536607, non-consecutively.

According to Fleetwood's records, the following vehicles were equipped with the subject refrigerators:

<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Manufacture Dates</u>
2005	Bounder	07/24/04 – 02/28/05
2005 – 2006	Bounder Diesel	07/30/04 – 03/11/05
2005	Expedition	08/18/04 – 12/02/04
2005	Southwind	07/24/04 – 03/10/05

Approximately 760 Fleetwood 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 defect was a low cycle fatigue failure in a section of the cooling unit which generates the refrigerant. The failure was induced by elevated heat inputs during operation in AC electric mode. The consequence of the failure could, under limited conditions, lead to the liquid solution being slowly eliminated from the sealed, pressurized cooling unit at a microscopic crack in the device, potentially leading to a fire from a gas which might escape.

### **Chronological Summary of Events**

On July 14, 2009, Fleetwood received a letter from Norcold advising Fleetwood of its 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, Fleetwood decided to submit this defect notice in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573.

### **Program for Remediating the Defect**

Norcold has arranged to conduct a recall to remedy the potential defect in Fleetwood's vehicles at no charge to vehicle owners. Please refer to Recall number 09E-027 for details regarding Norcold's recall campaign and proposed remedy. Fleetwood 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,



Steve Heim  
National Owner Relations Manager  
Fleetwood RV, Inc.

cc: George Strasburg  
Norcold, Inc.  
Manager of Corporate Product Reliability