



May 1, 2003

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED  
NVS-215  
2003 MAY -8 A 9 11  
OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

03V-166 ① of ②

Dear Associate Administrator:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, Monaco Coach Corporation ("Monaco" or the "Company") is submitting this report to NHTSA concerning a recall campaign, which is being voluntarily initiated. Specific information is as follows:

573.5(c)(2)

Affected brands and models are:

1997 Class A Motorhomes

Monaco - Signature, Executive, Dynasty, Windsor,  
Beaver - Marquis, Patriot, and Monterey  
Safari - Sahara, Trek (Gas & Diesel), Serengeti, Ivory and Continental

1997 Class C Motorhomes

Safari - Eldorado

1998 Class A Motorhomes

Monaco - Signature, Executive, Dynasty, Windsor, Diplomat  
Holiday Rambler - Navigator, Imperial, Endeavor Diesel and Vacationer  
Beaver - Marquis, Patriot, Monterey, Patriot Thunder and Contessa  
Safari - Sahara, Trek (Gas & Diesel), Serengeti, Continental, Zanzibar, Ivory and Renegade

1998 Class C Motorhomes

Safari - Eldorado

1998 Fifth Wheels

Holiday Rambler Alumascape Deluxe, Aluma Lite, Aluma Lite Limited and Imperial  
McKenzie - Medallion

1998 Travel Trailers

Holiday Rambler - Alumascape, Alumascape Deluxe, Imperial, and Aluma Lite  
MONACO COACH CORPORATION

INDIANA DIVISION • 1809 W. Hively Ave. (CR 18) • P.O. Box 4313 • Ellettsville, IN 46514-0313

Telephone: 877-4-MONACO (1-877-466-6226)

**1999 Class A Motorhomes**

Monaco - Signature, Executive, Dynasty, Windsor, Diplomat, and LaPalma  
 Holiday Rambler - Navigator, Imperial, Endeavor (Gas & Diesel), Vacationer, and Admiral  
 Safari - Sahara, Trek (Gas & Diesel), Serengeti, Continental, Zanzibar, Ivory and Renegade  
 Beaver - Marquis, Patriot, Monterey, Patriot Thunder, and Contessa

**1999 Class C Motorhomes**

Safari - Eldorado and Desperado

**1999 Fifth Wheels**

Holiday Rambler - Alumascape, and Imperial, and Aluma Lite  
 McKenzie - Medallion

**1999 Travel Trailers**

Holiday Rambler Alumascape and Aluma Lite  
 McKenzie - Medallion

The exact recall population has not yet been identified, but it will be determined from the manufacturing records for the Company's manufacturing plants in Coburg, and Bend Oregon and Wakarusa, Indiana, which produced the affected motorhomes, travel trailers and fifth wheels.

**573.5(c)(3)**

Norcold has provided to Monaco a list of 4,663 Model 1200lr & 1200lr rim Norcold refrigerators (the "Recalled Refrigerators") that were sold to the Company and are affected by this recall. Monaco is currently searching its records to compile for Norcold an accurate list of Monaco units that had the recalled Norcold refrigerators installed as original equipment.

**573.5(c)4**

The Recalled Refrigerators were available only as optional equipment on the Monaco brands and models listed above. Accordingly, only the Monaco units equipped with this option are included in the recall campaign.

**573.5(c)5**

Monaco has been informed by Norcold of a safety defect pertaining to the Recalled Refrigerators. Norcold has filed with NHTSA a Part 573 notification concerning this matter.

The nature of the defect is low cycle fatigue failure in the section of the cooling unit, which generates the refrigerant and is caused by elevated heat during operation in the AC electric mode. This can result in the liquid solution slowly leaking from the sealed, pressurized cooling unit through a small crack, which could occur from the thermal expansion created from the AC heater design. If the leak occurs, and the refrigerator continues to be operated, the heat source can generate very high temperatures. The high temperature can cause the steel material to soften and rupture. If the pressurizing gas is still in place when the rupture occurs, hydrogen gas may be expelled and can, under extreme conditions, be ignited by the high temperature and potentially cause a fire.

573.5(c)6

Monaco is currently not aware of any casualties or losses related to this issue.

573.5(c)8

The remedy will involve replacing the defective cooling unit. Norcold will be conducting the recall campaign on behalf of the Company.

Please acknowledge receipt of this defect information report and provide the recall number that will be assigned by NHTSA to this campaign.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Chuck R. Zucker  
Technical Coordinator Supervisor  
Monaco Coach Corporation

crz/tt