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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

July 22, 2002

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Associate Administrator:

Norcold, Inc., 600 S. Kuther Road, Sidney, OH 45365 (Phone 937-497-3080, Fax 937-497-3178) manufactures combination gas/electric absorption refrigerators that are sold for application in recreational vehicles (RV's).

We have determined that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in some specific gas control valves used on refrigerators supplied by Norcold to manufacturers of RV's. The gas control valves are manufactured in France by Sourdillon Air Index, 529 Rollins Industrial Drive, Ringgold, GA 30736. The subject valves are components of Norcold model numbers 442, 443, 452, EV452, 453, 462, EV462, 463, EV463, 482, EV482, 483, EV483, 874, and 875 manufactured between January, 1987 and May 1995.

As presently understood, the nature of the defect is a break down in a rubber seal within the gas valve. It is presently believed that the rubber seal fails because during the subject period of use as a component it did not contain sufficient ingredients, anti-ozonant, known to adequately retard degradation of the sealing function when exposed to normal atmospheric conditions. As this rubber seal ages, a leak may occur, allowing propane gas to accumulate in the burner area. The consequences of this failure can lead to a fire. As the refrigerator relighter attempts to light the burner, this accumulated gas can ignite as well.

A total population of 180,455 units of the models 442, 443, 452, EV452, 453, 462, EV462, 463, EV463, 482, EV482, 483, EV483, 874, and 875 were produced and sold between the period of January, 1987 and May 1995, which incorporated the gas valve with the suspect seal.

We are planning a campaign to notify OEM's, dealers, service centers and vehicle owners of the availability of a free replacement gas valve for their refrigerator in exchange for the suspect component. As soon as the literature is prepared which will be sent to the OEM's, dealers, service centers and vehicle owners we will submit it to you along with the other appropriate information needed to comply with NHTSA requirements.

Regional
23666 Cooper Drive
Elkhart, IN 46515
Phone: 219-266-6660
Fax: 219-266-5779

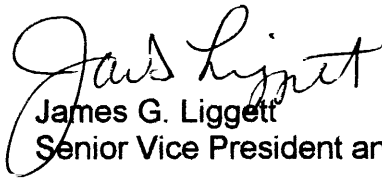
Headquarters
600 S. Kuther Road
P.O. Box 180
Sidney, OH 45365
Phone: 937-497-3080
General Fax: 937-497-3085
Administrative Fax: 937-497-3167

Gettysburg
1 Century Drive
Gettysburg, OH 45328
Phone: 937-447-2241
Fax: 937-497-3074

Our remedy is to replace the defective gas valve. We expect to have parts available for replacement work to begin in December 2002 and will begin our public campaign of notifying appropriate customers in August 2002. Notification to vehicle owners will be assisted by any information available from OEMs and dealers, and we will utilize other methods as appropriate.

Please assign a NHTSA identification number for our use and advise of any questions regarding our above notification.

Sincerely,



James G. Liggett

Senior Vice President and General Manager