

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

Date: 8/13/2013

This report serves as American Surplus & Mfg. Inc.'s notification to the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Ice Castle RV Editions. American Surplus & Mfg. Inc. decided that this defect existed in these vehicles on April 17th 2013.

I. Manufacturer, Designated Agent, and Other Chain of Distribution Information

Manufacturer's corporate name: American Surplus & Mfg. Inc.

Vehicle brand: Ice Castle Fish Houses/RV

Designated Agent (imported vehicles): Chad Hiepler

If this notification concerns a defective or noncompliant component that the above identified manufacturer did not manufacture, identify that component and provide the name, address, and phone number of the manufacturer of the component (if this manufacturer is unknown, provide this information as to the supplier of the component):

Dometic Corporation

2320 Industrial Parkway

Elkhart, IN 46516

Pat McConnell (260) 463-769

Name, address, email, and phone and fax numbers for the person(s) to whom inquiries about this report should be directed:

Chad Hiepler
P.O. Box 326
Montevideo, MN 56265
Ph.(320) 269-5428
Fax(320) 269-6540

Manufacturer's assigned campaign number (where applicable):

II. Identification of the Recall Population and Its Size

Complete the tables below for each group of vehicles subject to this notification. Additional tables may be necessary where there are more than three groups subject to a notification.

Make: Ice Castle Fish House/RV
Model: RV Edition
Model Year(s): 2014
Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year): February 2013 – April 2013
Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars): Recreational Vehicle
Other information necessary to describe these vehicles (e.g., VIN range, GVWR or class for trucks, displacement for motorcycles, and number of passengers for buses): Serial # Range 131026 - 1310565
Total number of these vehicles: 25

Make:
Model:
Model Year(s):
Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year):
Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars):
Other information necessary to describe these vehicles (e.g., VIN range, GVWR or class for trucks, displacement for motorcycles, and number of passengers for buses):

Total number of these vehicles:

Make:
Model:
Model Year(s):
Inclusive dates of manufacture (month and year):
Body Style/Type (for non-passenger cars):
Other information necessary to describe these vehicles (e.g., VIN range, GVWR or class for trucks, displacement for motorcycles, and number of passengers for buses):
Total number of these vehicles:

Provide the following information as to all the groups of vehicles:

Grand total number of vehicles: 52

The percentage of the recall population you estimate actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 48%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined (e.g., on what basis the recalled models were selected and how the inclusive dates of manufacture were determined):

American Surplus was notified by Dometic Corporation that 25 of the power awnings that took shipment of on the dates of February 13th – April 9th were defective. We searched our manufacturing records and determined that 52 units fell into the potential time period.

Describe how the recall population is different from any similar vehicles not subject to this notification:

Only the RV Edition models of Ice Castle Fish House/RV are affected by this recall.

III. Description of the Defect or Noncompliance and Chronology of Events

Describe the defect or noncompliance, including a summary and detailed description of the nature and physical location (if appropriate) of the defect or noncompliance. Graphic aids should be provided where necessary.

In the event that the awning installation instructions are not strictly followed in sequence by the installer and the cotter pin is left in place while raising the awning of the RV, the motor assembly screws may potentially experience abnormal torque if the attached arms are not lifted from a horizontal position to a vertical position simultaneously. This abnormal torque potentially can shear the two motor assembly screws inside the awning roller tube, which will enable the fabric of the awning to possibly unfurl while the RV is either parked or in transit.

Describe the safety consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The awning may possibly unfurl while the RV is either parked or in transit.

Identify any warning(s) that may precede the defect or noncompliance condition.

The arms of the awning may not be lifted simultaneously, causing abnormal torque on the motor assembly screws inside the awning roller tube.

For defects, provide a dated, chronological summary of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination that the defect is related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information such as numbers of crashes, injuries and fatalities.

On April 17th, Dometic Corporation issued a product recall for its 9100 Power Awning, Weatherpro Awning, and Motor Service Kits. We were informed that we had taken delivery of 25 of these units. Once American Surplus & Mfg. Inc. was made aware of the recall, we began researching which Ice Castle RV Edition units would possibly be affected. On 8/13/13, American Surplus & Mfg. Inc. submitted notice to NHTSA.

For noncompliances, identify the test results and other information considered in determining the existence of the noncompliance, and provide the date of each test and observation indicative of that noncompliance.

IV. The Remedy Program and Its Schedule

Describe the program for remedying the defect or noncompliance, including the plan for reimbursing those owners and purchasers who may have incurred costs to remedy the defect or noncompliance before receiving the manufacturer's notification concerning that defect or noncompliance. Also include, where applicable, details with dates concerning any production remedy that was conducted or will be conducted.

Customers are to contact the Dometic Awning Recall hotline at 1-888-447-0003. Dometic will assist in setting up an appointment with an authorized dealer to repair your vehicle. If you have questions concerning this recall or if you need any assistance such as locating a TMC authorized dealer or repair facility, please contact American Surplus Warranty/Service Department by mail, P.O. Box 326 Montevideo, MN 56265 or by phone at (320) 269-5428. If you had appropriate repairs completed prior to receipt of this recall notice, and if you incurred any direct cost in connection with obtaining such repair, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement from American Surplus by contactin the Ice Castle Warranty/Service Department.

Provide the estimated date(s) on which owner and purchaser notifications will be issued and the estimated date(s) for completion of those notifications.

Estimated date of notification for dealers: 8/14/2013, for customers 8/20/2013, with an estimated completion on 8/31/2013.

Provide the estimated date(s) on which dealer and distributor notifications will be issued and the estimated date(s) for completion of those notifications.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The affected Dometic products which may contain the potential defect are motor driven recreation vehicle power awnings manufactured between 2/13/2013 and 4/9/2013. The potentially affected awnings have the model designations set forth below:

WeatherPro Models

805xxxxxxxx

815xxxxxxxx
825xxxxxxxx

835xxxxxxxx

845xxxxxxxx

885xxxxxxxx

855xxxxxxxx

905xxxxxxxx

9100 Power Awning Models

910xxxxxxxx

912xxxxxxxx

913xxxxxxxx

914xxxxxxxx

915xxxxxxxx

916xxxxxxxx

917xxxxxxxx

918xxxxxxxx

Awning “Motor Service Kit” Part Numbers

3307923.xxxx

3310423.xxxx

The possibly affected units will have the serial numbers that are located on the right hand fabric or the right hand end of the fabric roller tube, beginning with the following digit combinations:

306xxxxx through 314xxxxx

These serial numbers are not located on the supporting arms.

******* IMPORTANT REMINDERS *******

A DRAFT version of the letter that the manufacturer intends to mail to owners and purchasers notifying them of the defect and/or noncompliance must be submitted to NHTSA at least five Federal Government business days before those letters are issued. In addition, it is recommended that the draft version of the letter that the manufacturer intends to send to its dealers and distributors concerning the defect and/or noncompliance also be submitted for review. For prompt receipt and review, drafts may be submitted to the attention of the Recall Management Division (NVS-215) via facsimile on (202) 366-7882, or email to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

A representative copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser, must be submitted to NHTSA no later than five days after they are initially sent. This requirement applies both to the final version of the notification letter that is sent to owners and purchasers, as well as the final version that is sent to dealers and distributors. It also includes any follow-up notifications issued concerning a recall. The representative copies of the letters sent to owners and purchasers, and dealers and distributors, must be submitted via certified mail. It is strongly recommended, however, that additional representative copies be submitted via facsimile on (202) 366-7882, or email to RMD.ODI@dot.gov, so that the submission can be more promptly reviewed. All submissions should be conspicuously labeled with the appropriate NHTSA-assigned recall number.