

**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management Division at 12:48 pm, Aug 20, 2014



14E-055  
(4 pages)  
Jay A. Kopp  
Legal Department  
314 West 90<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420  
Tel (651) 407-3850 Fax (651) 407-3940  
Mobile (651f) 587-0124  
Jay.Kopp@Trane.com

**VIA EMAIL (RMD.ODI@dot.gov) and CERTIFIED MAIL**

August 19, 2014

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: ODI/Recall Management Div. (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: Thermo King Corporation - Section 573.6(c) Information Report and Draft  
Customer Letter**

Dear Administrator:

Enclosed are Thermo King Corporation's section 573.6 notice and a section 577.5 proposed customer letter for NHTSA's review. Please note that Thermo King previously provided a properly marked and labeled safety recall envelope that is already on file with NHTSA in connection with a previous Thermo King voluntary safety recall.

Thermo King appreciates your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,  
**Thermo King Corporation**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Kopp', written over a faint circular stamp.

Jay A. Kopp  
Associate General Counsel

Enclosures

Jay A. Kopp  
Associate General Counsel  
Legal Department  
314 West 90<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420  
Tel (651) 407-3850  
Fax (651) 407-3940  
Jay.Kopp@Trane.com



VIA E-MAIL (RMD.ODI@dot.gov) and CERTIFIED MAIL

August 19, 2014

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: ODI/Recall Management Div. (NVS-215)  
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Section 573.6(c) Information Report; Thermo King branded 1100 W, 1500W, and 2000W Inverters sold from May 15, 2014 through July 31, 2014.

Dear Administrator:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 573.6(c), Thermo King Corp. ("Thermo King") submits the following information:

- (1) Thermo King Corporation  
314 W. 90th St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55420

(2)(iii) Thermo King 1100 W, 1500W, and 2000W Inverters were sold to Thermo King dealers from May 15, 2014 through July 31, 2014 as a standalone option with both the Thermo King TriPac EVOLUTION and TriPac-e Auxiliary Power Units ("APU"). The Thermo King inverters provide 120VAC household power to a tractor cabin.

The TriPac EVOLUTION and TriPac-e APU systems provide HVAC, battery charging, and engine warming capabilities for a Class 8 (semi-truck) sleeper-cab tractor. An optional accessory to the TriPac APU systems is the Thermo King branded power inverter. The Thermo King branded inverters are a solid-state electronic device used to convert tractor battery power (12VDC) to 120VAC for use with portable devices (laptops, cell phone charger, etc.), and include an installation kit with heavy cables and a fuse to connect the inverter to the tractor batteries. The inverter has an on/off switch and is mounted inside the tractor cabin in a variety of locations such as under bunk, behind the driver seat, or within built-in cabinets. This report involves a total of approximately **1,621** units that were made available to Thermo King Dealer from May 15, 2014 through July 31, 2014.

The above-mentioned Thermo King branded inverters are manufactured by Power Bright Technologies and are different in design and wattage than previous Thermo King branded inverters which were manufactured by a different manufacturer.



(2)(iv) Power Bright Technologies  
2933 W Cypress Creek Rd., Suite 202  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309  
(954) 603-4950

(2)(v) Thermo King does not sell this equipment directly to any vehicle or original equipment manufacturers for installation in their motor vehicles. Sales are through independent dealers or other commercial customers for sale to their customers, with installations performed by Thermo King Dealers, their customers, or third parties.

(3) The approximate total number of affected units sold by Thermo King: **1,621**.

(4) Estimated percentage of units actually containing the defect: Unknown

(5) The accounts of the inverter failures include reports of a “popping” noise, an odor emanating from the unit, smoke, and in a few instances sparks and small flames have been reported. Other than damage to the inverter units, there have been no reports of property damage or personal injury. Based upon the reports and its investigation, Thermo King believes the Thermo King branded inverters that are manufactured by Power Bright Technologies in *1100W*, *1500W* and *2000W* sizes may create a potential fire hazard.

(6) Between July 14, 2014 and August 14, 2014 Thermo King received reports of a total of eleven inverter incidents from Thermo King dealers in various states, variously describing the incident characteristics noted in paragraph (5) above. In most but not all instances, a device (coffee pot, television, etc.) was plugged into the inverter when the incident occurred. As previously noted, no damage was reported, other than to the inverter itself.

As a precautionary measure while Thermo King was conducting its internal investigation, Thermo King issued product, parts, and service bulletins. Product Bulletin PRB6011, Parts Bulletin PB1529-1 and Service Bulletin TT728 were issued to Thermo King dealers to address the Power Bright Technology manufactured inverters in dealer inventory and/or that have been installed. The Service bulletin addresses the internal handling and payment process for the inverters. The Product, Parts and Service bulletins were issued on August 4, 2014, August 8, 2014 and August 11, 2014, respectively. Copies of Product Bulletin PRB6011, Parts Bulletin PB1529-1 and Service Bulletin TT728 are attached to this 573.6 (c) information report. Thermo King provided copies of the attached bulletins to NHTSA’s Early Warning division by letter dated August 18, 2014.

Based on its internal investigation, Thermo King determined on August 18, 2014 that the inverter incidents warranted filing of this section 573.6 report.

(7) N/A

(8)(i) Thermo King will instruct owners to turn off and discontinue use of the currently installed Thermo King inverters. The owners will be provided the option of having replacement

inverters installed or having the full purchase price refunded based upon the availability of replacement inverters.

Thermo King has determined that, to the extent any potentially affected inverters may have been remedied prior to this notification, the remedy would have been performed under Thermo King's warranty at no expense to the owner. Therefore, a general pre-notification reimbursement notice should not be necessary.

(8)(ii) Currently, Thermo King expects to begin notification by September 1, 2014 and expects to complete the notification by September 15, 2014. Thermo King will notify NHTSA if this schedule should be delayed by more than two weeks.

(9) N/A

(10) A representative copy of all notices, bulletins, etc. will be provided to NHTSA. Thermo King will provide a draft notification letter to NHTSA for review.

(11) Thermo King will promptly notify NHTSA if Thermo King assigns a campaign number different than the identification number assigned by NHTSA.

Thermo King appreciates your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,  
**Thermo King Corporation**



Jay A. Kopp  
Associate General Counsel

Enclosure