

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21E-071

Manufacturer Name : Enerco Group, Inc.**Submission Date :** AUG 04, 2021**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21E-071**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :****Manufacturer Name :** Enerco Group, Inc.**Address :** 4560 W. 160th St.
Cleveland OH 44135**Company phone :** 216-588-0134**Population :****Number of potentially involved :** 52,188**Estimated percentage with defect :** 100 %**Equipment Information :****Brand / Trade 1 :** Enerco/Mr. Heater**Model :** 73766; 73836(G)**Part No. :** 73766 ADTL IN COMMEN**Size :** N/A**Function :** N/A**Descriptive Information :** Propane regulator for use in recreational vehicles**Production Dates :** APR 30, 2018 - AUG 04, 2021**Brand / Trade 2 :** Enerco/Mr. Heater**Model :** 73766; 73836(G)**Part No. :** 73766 ADTL IN COMMEN**Size :** N/A**Function :** N/A**Descriptive Information :** Propane regulator for use in recreational vehicles**Production Dates :** APR 30, 2018 - AUG 04, 2021

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Enerco has been advised that certain propane regulators manufactured by Winnspec/Chen Fong for Enerco Group Inc. may be unable to control propane pressure, resulting in the supply of elevated propane pressure to appliances located in the recreational vehicle. To the best of Enerco's knowledge, this defect began to manifest in the field after Winnspec/Chen Fong changed the 2nd stage seat disc material from nitrile rubber to fluoropolymer in May 2018. Winnspec informed Enerco that there have been 8-12 fires or other thermal events involving the subject regulators in the field. As Enerco has received no consumer complaints or reports of failure of its propane regulator, these field failure reports have not been confirmed by Enerco.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Elevated propane pressure may cause the flame of an RV appliance to become larger and under certain rare circumstances, may cause adjacent materials to ignite.

Description of the Cause : Enerco has been advised that Winnspec/Chen Fong changed the seat disc material from nitrile rubber to fluoropolymer in 2018. Enerco has also been advised that fluoropolymer may be less competent in protecting against unwanted propane pressure increases than the previously used material, nitrile rubber, in this propane regulator application.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Enerco is advised that the vehicle owner may notice irregular performance of the affected appliances, if the propane regulator is malfunctioning. Enerco is also advised that the vehicle owner may smell propane in the vicinity of the regulator. As Enerco has had no consumer complaints or reports of failure of its propane regulator, these symptom reports have not been confirmed by Enerco.

Involved Components :

Component Name : N/A beyond equipment identified above

Component Description : N/A beyond description above

Component Part Number : N/A beyond Part Numbers identified above

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Winnspec/Chen Fong

Address : 13F-1, 207, FU SING ROAD
TAOYUAN CITY, TAOYUAN HSIEN Foreign States R.O.C.
Country : Taiwan, Province of China

Chronology :

6/2/21-Enerco learned that Grand Design filed a Part 573 Report with NHTSA regarding propane regulators manufactured by Chen Fong under the brand name Winntec, due to reports of fires and thermal events involving the regulators. Enerco reached out to Winnspec to obtain information about the Grand Design filing. 1st 2 weeks of June-Other RV manufacturers filed Part 573 Reports regarding Winntec propane regulators. 6/15/21-Although Enerco had not (and still has not) received any reports of fires or other thermal events involving its regulators, it began an investigation to determine whether its regulators were affected by the same defect that led to the RV manufacturers' recalls, because Enerco also purchased propane regulators manufactured by Chen Fong through Winnspec. 7/2/21-THOR shared test reports it obtained from an independent lab. Reports suggested that the seat disc material was different from a comparable competitor's regulator. Enerco was informed that Chen Fong changed the seat disc material from nitrile rubber to fluoropolymer in 2018 for at least some of the propane regulators manufactured by Chen Fong. Enerco learned that research conducted for Thor demonstrated that seat discs manufactured from fluoropolymer seemed to be unable to retain adequate sealing capacity in the propane regulator. Enerco also learned that research conducted for THOR demonstrated that plasticizers in certain pigtails supplied with propane regulators distributed to the RV manufacturers had leached and contaminated the body of the regulator; but it remains unclear if this has any effect on the regulator's function. Enerco determined that the plasticizer issuer did not affect its propane regulators, because Enerco does not distribute these pigtails with its regulators. However, Enerco cannot be certain whether its customers may have used pigtails prone to leaching with its propane regulators; nor of any effect it may have. Continued in Comments Section

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	Initially, Enerco will replace the recalled propane regulators with high capacity propane regulators with part number 73836 manufactured prior to the change to fluoropolymer seat discs. Over time, Enerco plans to augment the remedy population with new conventional capacity regulators built with nitrile rubber seat discs. The manufacturing date codes are prominently visible on each regulator, so that products included in this recall can be readily identified.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	The high capacity propane regulators in Enerco's inventory that will be used initially for the remedy were manufactured in 2017 and were made with nitrile rubber seat discs. When available, Enerco plans to augment the remedy population with new conventional capacity regulators built with nitrile rubber seat discs.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Enerco is no longer procuring propane regulators with fluoropolymer seat discs from Winnspec/Chen Fong. Winnspec/Chen Fong would be the appropriate source of information about whether and when it discontinued use of fluoropolymer as a material for its propane regulator seat discs.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Enerco will notify its customers (which are retailers) of this recall by first class mail. Enerco will also contact its customers by telephone. Enerco also intends to notify its customers by telephone.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : AUG 27, 2021 - SEP 27, 2021

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : NR
Address : NR
NR
Country : NR
Company Phone : NR

* NR - Not Reported