

MSR Pocket Rocket Batch KCL05 Recall

On 10 Feb 2004, at around 9:00 am EST, Spelean, the exclusive Australian agent for the MSR range of products was notified by MSR in Seattle as follows:

" One of our suppliers has made an unauthorized change to the actuator pin on our Pocket Rocket stove (the pin that interfaces with the canister to allow gas out of the canister). This change may lead to a gas leak during installation of the stove onto the gas canister. Once the stove is installed completely, the stove seals to the gas canister in a normal fashion. Only some gas canisters are found to leak with this stove actuator pin design, however these canisters are believed to be in spec and it is possible that future runs of MSR brand canisters could exhibit this same condition.

If the consumer experiences this leak in the presence of an ignition source, it could present a fire hazard. Although extremely unlikely, an injury could result.

The unauthorized actuator pins are easy to spot as they are hollow instead of solid. Please immediately evaluate your stock of Pocket Rockets; isolate remaining stock in your warehouse, and pull any affected stoves from retail store shelves."

Our immediate reaction was to quarantine ALL the MSR Pocket Rocket stoves that we had in stock and to identify every retailer who had potentially been supplied with the MSR Pocket Rocket from the problem batch.

Only product shipped from Spelean between 15 Jan 2004 and 6 Feb 2004 was involved. A list of affected retailers was produced and the task of contacting, by telephone, every affected retailer was commenced. The task was completed by early 10 Feb 2004.

Each affected retailer was asked to check all their MSR Pocket Rocket stock to see if it any stoves were defective. In many cases it was possible to locate all the defective stoves shipped to an individual retailer. In some cases the retailer had sold stoves likely to be defective. Some of the sales were to customers, who could be identified. Other sales were to customers who could not be identified (these total 15 stoves). The results of each call were logged.

Retailers were asked to return, at Spelean's expense, the defective stoves. They were also asked to contact customers, who may have defective stoves. The request was confirmed in writing and sent by fax.

All the quarantined stoves were inspected. The defective batch was segregated and all other MSR Pocket Rocket stoves were marked with a white sticker with the word "Checked" on the plastic box of the stove.

We are confident that there are no defective MSR Pocket Rocket stoves on the shelves of any retail stores in Australia or New Zealand, they have either been

returned to us or are in transit. All MSR Pocket Rocket stoves shipped by Spelean outside the period 15 Jan 2004 and 6 Feb 2004 are free from the identified defect.

As supposedly defective stoves are received, they are inspected to confirm that they are defective. The result of the inspection is logged and replacement stoves are shipped to the retailer, who sent the stove(s).

A poster has been prepared following the product recall guidelines of the Consumer Safety Unit of the Federal Treasury. The poster has been sent by Express Post to the ten retailers, who had defective stock and to other appropriate retailers in their area. We hope that the posters may be seen by the owners of the fifteen potentially defective stoves. A total of 69 posters have been sent.

Neither MSR nor Spelean has been able to cause the potential problem using the defective stoves with MSR gas canisters. The major concern is that it is not possible to know how serious the problem is with other brands of gas canister. As a result the defect has been treated as major and the response has been urgent.

Testing by MSR suggests, as at Thursday 12 Feb 2004, that the hazard only exists while the stove is being connected or removed. It has not been possible to cause a gas leak once the stove is fully assembled. As a result the potential for serious injury is significantly less than first feared.

As at 1 March 2005 there remain 10 stoves that we have not been able to locate. All nonconforming stoves have been shipped back to the manufacturer.

All appropriate government instrumentalities have been notified by MSR.