



Press release

Danfoss A/S Corporate Communications & Reputation Management

DK-6430 Nordborg
Denmark
CVR No.: 20 16 57 15

Tel.: +45 7020 4488
Fax: +45 7488 3148

E-mail: danfoss@danfoss.com
Homepage: www.danfoss.com

Date
26 November 2007

Danfoss cautions that old refrigerators and freezers may have a possible risk of fire

The Danfoss Group, a leading global producer of components for cooling, heating and motion controls, is cautioning customers that there is a potential risk of fire in refrigerators and freezers produced in or before 1994. The domestic appliances at risk contain a Danfoss compressor with a starting device now believed in some cases to be able to generate a spark that could cause a fire. The company is offering to provide a replacement starting device free to the owners of all such appliances still in use.

The risk of fire is believed to be caused by a starting device installed on a certain type of compressor produced by Danfoss until 1994. Tests indicate that the gradual decay of the plastic material used to produce the starting device at that time leads to the potential risk that the component may generate a spark which could ignite a fire.

"Earlier in 2007, Danfoss and Denmark's consumer safety board analysed the causes of some fires. The conclusion was that plastic material used in the production of starting components on a certain type of compressor for refrigerators and freezers carries a risk of generating a spark. The risk increases the older the component gets," explains Ole Daugbjerg, Chief of Staff at Danfoss. He adds:

"We suspect that, for instance, such old refrigerators and freezers stored in sheds and country cottages etc. that are typically turned on after being switched off for long periods of time could be a source of concern. We know that humidity, which is often high in such places, can affect the starter and that this may cause it to generate a spark that could ignite a fire. The sparks are not hazardous in themselves, but the dust which often gathers at the back of refrigerators and freezers will increase the risk of a fire."

Only compressors produced in or before 1994 and, consequently, only refrigerators and freezers purchased before such a time, are considered to be a source of concern.

Today's modern compressors are produced with starting components made of a plastic material that complies with modern standards. These will not generate a spark that can cause a fire to develop.

"We advise everyone with an old refrigerator or freezer in operation to have a look at the back of the refrigerator to check whether the compressor carries a yellow label with the Danfoss name,, and, if it does, to then contact us to get a new starting component that will eliminate the risk of fire," says Ole Daugbjerg, Chief of Staff at Danfoss.



Eliminating the risk of fire

Irrespective of the fact that all liabilities related to the old component have expired, Danfoss is offering to deliver the replacement component free of charge. An order for a replacement starter must be placed with Danfoss – not through another agency.

To determine whether a domestic appliance purchased before or during 1994 contains a Danfoss compressor, the appliance owner should look for a yellow label with Danfoss' name and logo on the compressor at the back of or inside the appliance.

Users can find further information at a dedicated Danfoss website. The site contains information about how to check the compressor in an old refrigerator and determine what to do if the appliance contains a starter from 1994 or earlier. The link to the website is listed below.

Only a small number of affected

Danfoss believes that only a small number of the compressors, produced in the late 1980s and early 1990s, are still in use today.

"Compared to modern technology, appliances produced at that time were not as energy-efficient as they are today. We believe that the majority of domestic appliances from that period, which would be a minimum of 12-13 years old at this stage, are likely to have been discarded by now. To be on the safe side, however, we have taken this step to offer to provide a replacement for the remaining components still in use," says Ole Daugbjerg, Chief of Staff at Danfoss.

Danfoss will continue to investigate, whether compressors with the aforementioned starter are still in use in other countries, where announcements will be made. At present, more than 90 per cent of all such compressors are believed to have been sold into European markets.

For further information – (Please state your questions in English only):

UK: www.danfoss.co.uk/compressorinfo or by contacting a dedicated Danfoss Hotline (free phone): 0808 238 1499 (Mon-Fri: 9 am-9 pm, Sat-Sun: 10 am-5 pm)

Republic of Ireland: www.danfoss.ie/compressorinfo, or by contacting a dedicated Danfoss Hotline (free phone): 1800 930260 (Mon-Fri: 9 am-9 pm, Sat-Sun: 10 am-5 pm)

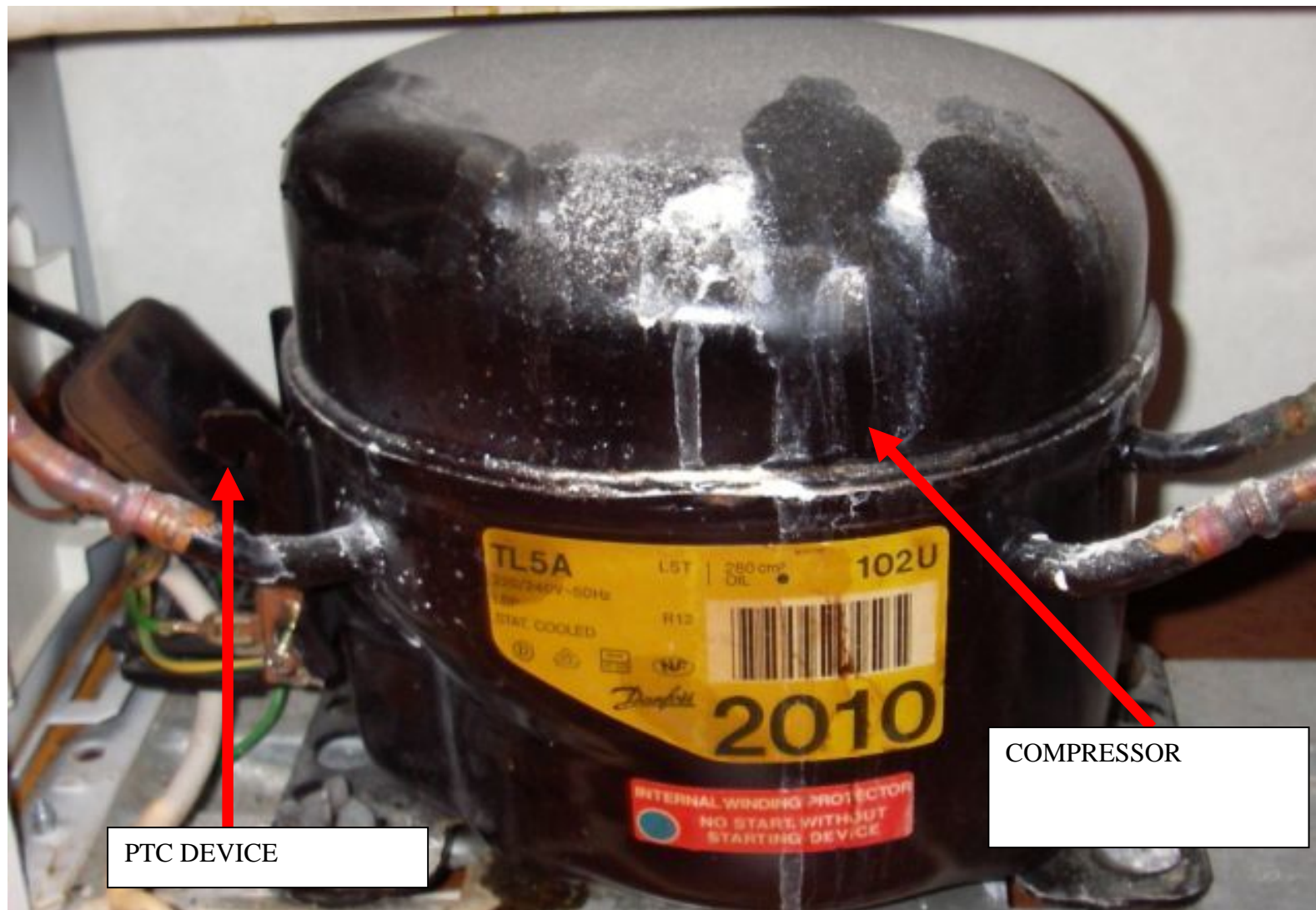
Journalists are referred to:

Torben Fich, Project Director: tel: +45 7488 5499

Ole Daugbjerg, Chief of Staff – telephone: +45 7488 2008/+45 2424 8815

Web Address (UK): www.danfoss.co.uk/compressorinfo

Web Address (Rep. of Ireland): www.danfoss.ie/compressorinfo



PTC DEVICE

COMPRESSOR



Caution

Possible risk of fire in old refrigerators and freezers bought in 1994 or before

If your refrigerator or freezer was bought in 1994 or before, you should check to see if it is fitted with a Danfoss compressor.

Recent tests suggest that the gradual decay of a plastic material on the starting device of Danfoss compressors from this period can under extreme circumstances cause a potential risk of fire. The starter produced after 1994 in modern compressors does not – and will not in the future – carry this risk.

You will find the compressor at the back or on the side of your refrigerator or freezer, and possibly behind a cover in some cases. You should disconnect the power cable before you move your refrigerator or freezer.

To identify a Danfoss compressor, please look for a yellow label with Danfoss' name, logo and model type on the front of the compressor. See the illustration above.

If you find a Danfoss compressor mounted in your refrigerator or freezer, manufactured and dating back to 1994 or before, you should take the following action to eliminate a potential risk of fire:

- contact Danfoss to order the free spare part
- seek qualified assistance from a service technician to have it fitted.

You can find more information and order the free spare part you need at:

Web: www.danfoss.co.uk/compressorinfo

Danfoss hotline (free phone): tel: 0808 238 1499

(weekdays from 9 am - 9 pm, Saturday & Sunday 10 am - 5 pm)



Danfoss Compressors GmbH

Office/Sitz: D-24939 Flensburg, Mads-Clausen-Straße 7
Registration-No./Register-Nr.: Flensburg HRB 18

☎ · National: (04 61) 49 41-0 · Internat. +49 461 49 41-0

Fax · Exchange/Zentrale: National (04 61) 4 47 15
Internat. +49 461 4 47 15

Direct dialling/Durchwahl

☎ +49 461 4941-546

Fax +49 461 4941-630

E-Mail j.nielsen@danfoss.de

Danfoss Compressors GmbH · Postfach 14 43 · D-24904 Flensburg / Germany

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 9SS
United Kingdom

Your ref./Ihr Zeichen

Your letter/Ihr Schreiben

Our ref./Unser Zeichen

Date/Datum

jn/bc

2007-11-22

To whom it may concern

Subject: Danfoss Group to run a product warning campaign in the UK and the Republic of Ireland

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you were informed via the RAPEX system during the week commencing July 9, 2007 by Denmark's governmental consumer safety board, the *Danish Safety Technology Authority*, the Danfoss Group, a leader in the production of solutions for cooling, heating and motion controls, has taken the voluntary decision to start a caution campaign concerning a starting device (PTC) on compressors for refrigerators and freezers produced in or before 1994.

Such starting devices are suspected of carrying a potential risk of fire. We have reason to suspect that the plastic material used at the time to produce the starting device will, over a period of time, deteriorate and decay in such a way that it may result in or contribute to an electric spark being generated when the refrigerator or freezer is started. Such starting devices and compressors were produced in Germany until 1993. Starting devices produced after 1994 do not and will not carry this risk.

From July this year, Danfoss began a product caution campaign in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland relating to the RAPEX category *household appliances* and RAPEX product category *compressors*.

Although, the period of liability has expired, Danfoss has voluntarily decided to start a campaign in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. This is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28 this year. Danfoss considers this planned campaign necessary for the safety of the general public.

Details of the campaign are as follows:

- November 27: A detailed press release will be distributed to mainstream daily media, including the following media organisations:
 - Reuters
 - BBC Watchdog
 - The Independent
 - The Sun
 - News of the World
 - The Daily Mail
 - The Daily Telegraph
 - Belfast Telegraph
 - The Guardian
 - The Times
 - The Examiner
 - Irish Times
- November 28: A caution notification will be published in the following media in the UK and Rep. of Ireland:
 - Daily Mail
 - Daily Telegraph
 - Independent
 - News of the World
 - The Sun
 - Belfast Telegraph
 - Irish Independent
 - The Herald
 - Irish Daily Star
- We have established a call centre to take calls from the general public and also opened a dedicated website for the purpose. A complimentary replacement starting device can be ordered via either the hotline or the website.

I have attached a copy of the caution notification and the press release to be distributed during the week commencing November 26, 2007.

I hope you find this information adequate. I am obviously at your disposal to answer any questions you may have regarding the campaign.

Yours sincerely,

Danfoss Compressors GmbH
Sales department


John Nielsen
Key Account Manager