



REVERSING LIGHTS

Q Could the Club advise what the legal requirements are for reversing lights for my touring caravan? I do not wish to fit 12S electrics for interior lights, battery charging etc, but as the wiring for the reversing lights is part of

the wiring for this plug, I am wondering if I need to have one anyway?

A The Club is advised by a specialist road transport law service that: 'Reversing lights are not

compulsory but if they are fitted and are not working it would be a good idea to blank (eg tape over) the lens in some way as other road users and pedestrians would expect to see the lights illuminate when the combination is reversing.'

Cover story

Q I believe there is a cover that fits over the ventilator grilles of a Dometic fridge. Can these be left on throughout winter?

A Winter covers, available for both Dometic and Thetford fridges, can be used when the unit is being run on gas as well as mains. However, this may not be the case with other manufacturers – if in doubt consult your dealer or caravan manufacturer. The covers help to control the performance of the fridge in cold weather and should ideally be fitted when the outside (ambient) temperature is below 10°C (50°F) for Dometic units and below 8°C (46°F) for Thetford fridges. However, the covers should be removed when not required, otherwise the performance of the fridge could be adversely affected, particularly in warm weather.

VAT increase

Q If I was to buy a new caravan before 1 January 2010 – when I understand the VAT rate is to return to 17.5% from its current 15% – but don't take delivery of the caravan until February 2010, what rate of VAT will apply?

A The Club's Legal Helpline advises that if you pay for the caravan completely before 1 January you will be charged the lower present rate of VAT. It is the date of invoice which is relevant. So, if you put down a deposit before January, the initial invoice would be at the lower rate of VAT, but if you paid the balance in February on delivery of the caravan, the final invoice would be at the higher VAT rate.



Dometic fridge recall

Q I own a Dometic fridge/freezer and am sure I have received a recall letter for a problem that has arisen. Could you just remind me what the problem is and which models are affected, as I seem to have mislaid the letter?

A The National Caravan Council advises that the product recall is in connection with substandard securing screws used to attach the absorption unit to the fridge body. Dometic advises that this recall only affects owners of RM7 series double-door fridge/freezers equipped with MES (Manual Energy Selector) or AES (Automatic Energy Selector). These appliances should not be run on gas prior to inspection by a technician, and Dometic advises closing the corresponding gas valve. It is completely safe to operate these appliances on 12V and 230V.

The list of appliances that may be affected is as follows: RM 7601, RM 7605, RM 7801, RM 7805, RM 7651, RM 7655, RM 7851, RM 7855, RMT 7651, RMT 7655, RMT 7851 and RMT 7855.

All the affected models were manufactured between 20 January 2004 and 20 August 2007, with serial numbers #401XXXXX-734XXXX.

All members who own these appliances should call Dometic on 01258 414595 to arrange a check as soon as possible.

Jenny Norton, the Club's Information Officer, answers your questions

Please address your questions to:

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...and quote your membership number