



# Service Bulletin



**SUBJECT: URGENT REFRIGERANT SAFETY BULLETIN**

**BULLETIN: C-095**

**DATE: October 27, 2011**

We are contacting you regarding a recent potential safety issue that has come to our attention affecting several different brands of container reefer units. We attach a link to a World Cargo News article, published 26 October 2011, stating the facts known to date in the container industry. Additionally, we attach by kind permission of GEA Bock, a document from Bock Compressors, published today 27 October 2011, relating to their investigations on a similar issue.

This information may be supplemented in the coming days as more facts come to light.

As you have likely been made aware, recently there have been a number of very serious, albeit limited incidents of compressor ruptures. To date, there have been four container reefer units that have experienced compressor ruptures resulting in three fatalities, and one unit where the refrigerant reportedly spontaneously combusted when exposed to air. The companies directly involved in the ruptures are working diligently to evaluate the cause of these incidents.

From our preliminary investigation there appears to be one common factor: refrigerants involved were of poor quality, contaminated, or a hazardous substitute. As we await determination of root cause, we would advise you to only buy refrigerants and gases from a reputable source (see Bock bulletin).

We recommend that you do not perform any work on container reefers until the reefer owner or lessee can provide you with service records and information on the origin of the last refrigerant charge made on the unit. In case of suspect origin or no traceability, no work should be performed on this equipment.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed of any further developments as warranted.

<http://www.worldcargonews.com/htm/w20111026.937700.htm>

Attachment: GEA Bock Product Information bulletin