



April 7, 1997

Re: **\*PRODUCT RECALL\***

Westerbeke Generator Models 4.0 BCG, 4.5 BCG, 6.5 BCG, 7.0 BCG,  
8.5 BTG, 8.5 BTGA, 9.0 BTG, 12.5 BTG and 15.0 BTG  
Westerbeke Propulsion Engine Models W26G, W26GX, W41G, and  
W70G

Dear Westerbeke Owner:

Please read this letter carefully because it concerns a product you purchased which needs to be modified in order to meet applicable Coast Guard safety standards.

Our records indicate that you have purchased a Westerbeke gasoline powered generator or engine. Westerbeke has recently learned that the starter used in many of these products fails an ignition protection test required by Coast Guard regulations. This test is designed to minimize the danger of igniting flammable gases within the engine compartment or other enclosed areas of a vessel. A simple modification that can easily be performed to the starter will correct the deficiency. Westerbeke has corrected this problem on all generators and engines shipped after January 10, 1997.

While there have been no reported safety incidents with the product, Westerbeke is urging its customers to stop using their generators or engines until the problem has been corrected. Enclosed please find an unlabeled tube of RTV sealant and detailed instructions for you to perform this simple repair yourself. Or, if you prefer, you may contact Westerbeke to arrange for an authorized mechanic to perform the repair quickly and at no cost to you. You should be aware that it is a violation of the federal law for you to continue to use this product with knowledge that it fails to conform to Coast Guard safety standards. See 46 U.S.C. §4307.

Please read on so that you understand the background of our concern about the product and the details of the repair program.

(more on reverse side)

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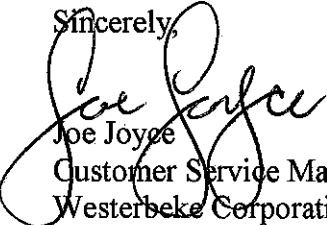
Since its founding over 50 years ago, Westerbeke's primary objective has been to provide its customers with products of the highest durability, quality, and safety. Our products have been developed and manufactured in an effort to offer merchandise to you which will result in the utmost satisfaction. To that end, our products sometimes include parts produced by other reputable manufacturers, including the starter of your Westerbeke generator or engine.

However, a recent laboratory test revealed that the starter we have been using as a part for certain gasoline generators and engines does not pass an ignition protection test required by Coast Guard regulations. While we are not aware of any safety problems arising from the use of our gasoline powered products, we urge you to stop using your generator or engine and either to correct the problem yourself by using the enclosed materials and instructions or to contact Westerbeke to arrange for an authorized mechanic to perform the necessary repair. Please complete and return the enclosed card to notify us that (1) you have repaired the starter yourself; or (2) you would like Westerbeke to make arrangements to have the problem corrected. If you choose to make the repair yourself, we will send you a free thank you gift.

Of course, if you have sold or given away your Westerbeke generator or engine, please either refer this letter and the enclosed materials and instructions to the new owner or contact us with the name and address of the new owner so that this safety message and recall will also come to their attention.

If you have any questions about the recall or the repair policy, please call me at Westerbeke at (508) 588-7700.

Sincerely,



Joe Joyce  
Customer Service Manager  
Westerbeke Corporation

# SERVICE BULLETIN

**DATE:** January 28, 1997

**BULLETIN NUMBER:** 225

**MODEL(S):** Gasoline Engines and generators - 4.0 BCG, 4.5 BCG, 6.5 BCG, 7.0 BCG, 8.5 BTG, 8.5 BTGA, 9.0 BTG, 12.5 BTG, 15.0 BTG, W26G, W26GX, W41G, W70G

**SUBJECT:** Starter Motor P/N 034552

## \*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*\*\*\*

There is a potential spark hazard from starter motors installed on the above referenced Westerbeke gasoline engines and generators manufactured prior to January 10, 1997. All starter motors on these model engines and generators manufactured before this date must be inspected.

Inspection should be performed on all units with a manufacturing date code of D702 (February, 1997) and earlier. The manufacturing date code is the four digit suffix of the engine serial number. The engine serial number can be found on the unit's identification plate which is attached to the exhaust manifold. On generators, there is also an identification label (sticker) which is located on the stator housing of the electrical back end. This inspection also applies to any starter motors in spare parts inventory.

There are two ventilation holes on the starter motor which must be sealed to prevent the possibility of a spark exiting the housing. Please refer to the illustration on the back side of this bulletin to assist you in locating these holes. If you find these holes are not sealed, follow these steps immediately. It is not necessary to remove the starter from the engine.

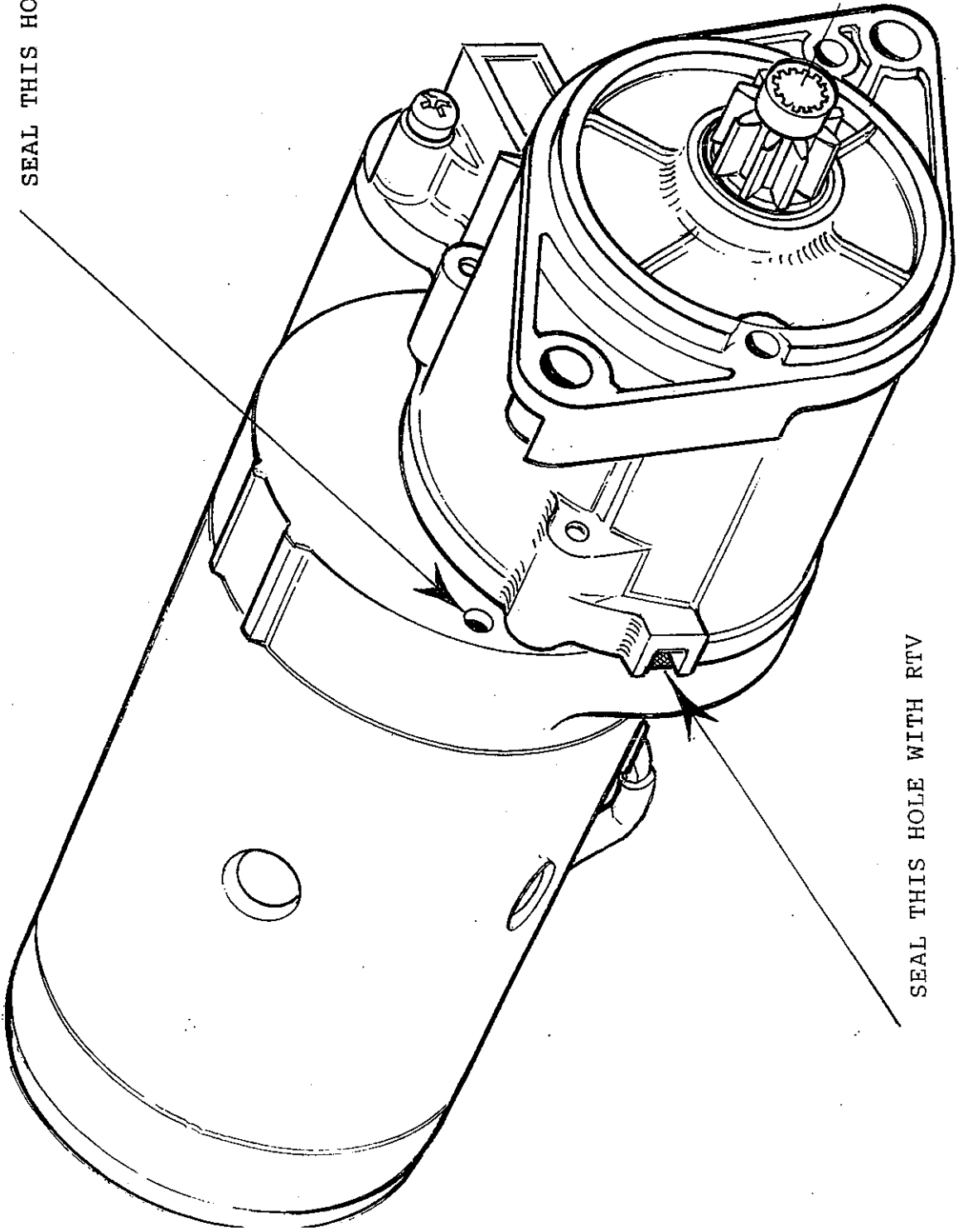
- Clean the surface area around the holes with a non-flammable water based cleaner. Thoroughly dry the surface.
- Seal each hole with Dow Corning RTV Multi-Purpose Sealant 732 or equivalent.
- Do not overfill the upper hole shown in the illustration. Excessive sealant may spill onto the starter's armature inside the housing.
- Let sealant dry thoroughly before starting the engine.

Please contact Joe Joyce at Westerbeke Corporation (508) 588-7700 if you have any questions.

(TURN OVER)



SEAL THIS HOLE WITH RTV



SEAL THIS HOLE WITH RTV