Question: during inspection of my new LabScanXE it appears that the bottom corner of one side of the cover has been broken off and is missing.

Answer: You are correct that the one corner of the enclosure on the bottom of the instrument is missing. The mold used to make this instrument was damaged about 17 years ago. The decision at that time was that since this is not in a visible location. All LabScanXE's have this flaw.