U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

APR 0 2 2010

Ricon Corporation
7900 Nelson Road
Panorama City, CA 91402

NVS-215aa
EQ10-001
08E-046

Attn: President/Chief Counsel

Dear Sir or Madam,

On February 5, 2010, we wrote to your company as part of an ongoing investigation being conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) about a safety issue involving 6-way power seat bases that were manufactured by Ricon Corporation (your company) and sold to multiple companies to be installed in new or used motor vehicles. Your company's response to that letter was due to NHTSA within 10 days of receipt. At this time, we have not received your response.

A copy of our original letter is enclosed with this letter. We have also attached a copy of the certified mail receipt signed by a representative of your company on February 16, 2010.

This letter is being sent to you to remind you that you must respond to the earlier letter and that your company may have additional obligations under Federal law as we explained in the earlier letter.

A written response to our earlier letter must be submitted to this office within 7 days of your receipt of this letter. Should you need an electronic copy of our earlier letter, please e-mail Alex Ansley at alexander.ansley@dot.gov and a copy can be e-mailed to you. Response submission may be made by US Mail to the address listed therein, fax to (202) 366-7882, or e-mail rmd.odi@dot.gov. If you are unable to reply by that time, you may request an extension by calling me at (202) 366-5210.

If your company claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, Your company must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (69 Fed. Reg. 21409 et seq; April 21, 2004), to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-111), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W41-227, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590. Your company is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents

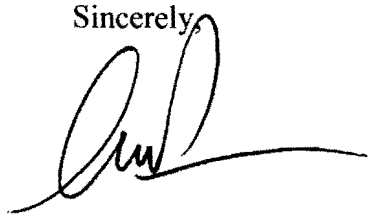
from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted. Please remember that the word "CONFIDENTIAL" must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential, and the information must be clearly identified in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 512.6.

This letter is being sent to your company pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49. It constitutes a new request for information. Your company's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject your company to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. A person that violates 49 U.S.C. § 30166 could be liable to the United States Government for a maximum penalty of $6,000 per violation per day. The maximum penalty for a related series of daily violations is $16,375,000.

I urge you to comply with this information request in order to ensure that these important issues relating to motor vehicle safety are promptly addressed.

Should you have any questions regarding this inquiry, please contact Alex Ansley of my staff at (202) 493-0481 or by e-mail at alexander.ansley@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosures

Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

Article Addressed to:



COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) Heath

C. Date of Delivery 2/16

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

☐ Express Mail
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
☐ C.O.D.

ery? (Extra Fee) ☐ Yes

Article Number
(Transfer frc vice label) 7008 1830 0001 4173 2588

rm 3811, February 2004 Domestic Return Receipt 102595-02-M-1540

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 05 2010

Ricon Corporation
Mr. Oscar Pardinas
7900 Nelson Road
Panorama City, CA 91402

NVS-215aa
EQ10-001
08E-046

Dear Mr. Pardinas,

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), Recall Management Division (RMD) is conducting a review of safety recall 08E-046. In a letter dated July 30, 2008 Ricon Corporation (Ricon) reported that certain 6-way power seat bases, produced between January 1, 2006 and May 14, 2007, contain a weld on the pivot shaft that may fail due to poor (cold) welding. A failed pivot shaft weld can cause the driver's seat to become detached from the seat base, possibly causing injury to the driver and increasing the risk of a crash. NHTSA assigned recall number 08E-046 to this matter.

The purpose of this request is to obtain a list of customers that were sold these seat bases so they are made aware of this safety recall and are able to determine the need for any similar safety recall. According, we require the following information:

1. Provide a list all Ricon customers that received these seat bases and provide their company name, line of business (i.e. vehicle manufacturer, distributor, etc.), address, phone number, contact person, quantity sold to each, and sale date.

2. For seat bases Ricon manufactured considered original equipment (meaning any motor vehicle equipment installed in or on a new motor vehicles at the time of delivery to the first purchaser as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 30102), provide the date Ricon mailed notifications to manufacturers, distributors, and dealers, as stated in Ricon's Defect Report.

3. For seat bases Ricon manufactured considered replacement equipment (meaning any motor vehicle equipment that is not considered original equipment as defined in 49 U.S.C. § 30102), provide the date Ricon notified owners by mail, as required by 49 CFR §577.5.

4. Should the above dates, in answer to questions 2 and 3, fall before January 1, 2010, please explain why Ricon has not submitted quarterly reports for this recall as required by 49 CFR §573.7.

You must respond in writing to this letter. This letter is being sent to your company pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49. Your company's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject your company to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163.

If your company claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, your company must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (69 Fed. Reg. 21409 et seq; April 21, 2004), to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-111), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W41-227, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590. Your Company is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted. Please remember that the word "CONFIDENTIAL" must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential, and the information must be clearly identified in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 512.6.

Your company's written response must be submitted to this office within 10 days of receiving this letter. In your response, please be certain to include a reference to this matter's identification number which is **EQ10-001**. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Alex Ansley of my staff at (202) 493-0481 or by e-mail at alexander.ansley@dot.gov. Response submission may be made by US Mail, fax (202) 366-7882, or e-mail rmd.odi@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosures

08E-046
(4 pages)

Ricon
A Wabtec company

Ricon Corporation
A Division of Vapor Bus International
7900 Nelson Road
Panorama City, CA 91402

Phone: 818.267.3000
Fax: 818.267.3001
www.Wabtec.com

July 30, 2008

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
NHTSA - 215
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Subject: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility Report
Reference: Ricon 6-Way Power Transfer Seat Base

Dear Sir:

On July 30, 2008, Ricon Corporation identified that a potential defect may exist in items of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 – Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

This report was prepared on July 30, 2008

1. The full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer is:

   Ricon Corporation
   A Wabtec Company
   7900 Nelson Road
   Panorama City, CA 91402

   The corporate officials that the agency should contact with respect to this recall are:

   Stanton Saucier
   General Manager
   ssaucier@wabtec.com
   Phone 818 267-3016
   Fax 818 267-3187

   Oscar Pardinas
   Vice President of Sales and Marketing
   opardinas@wabtec.com
   Phone 818 267-3085
   Fax 818 267-3155

Sincerely,

Oscar Pardinas
Vice President of Sales and Marketing

RECEIVED
2008 AUGUST 7
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Ricon
A Wabtec company

Ricon Corporation
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7900 Nelson Road
Panorama City, CA 91402

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Fax: 818.267.3001
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Ricon Corporation
Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility Report

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. **Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall:**

   a. This recall applies to pivoting plate used on Ricon's 6-way power transfer seat base.

   b. There are three Model names for these 6-way power transfer seat bases:

      (1) Standard 6-way Power Seat Base (Right turn)
      (2) R1209-L 6-way Power Seat Base (Left turn)
      (3) R1209-E 6-way Power Seat Base (Extended travel)

   c. The model numbers for the seat bases are:

      (1) R1209
      (2) R1209-L
      (3) R1209-E

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. **Identify the Recall Population:** 6-way Power Seat Bases manufactured between January 1, 2006, and May 14, 2007 inclusive.

4. **Approximate percentage of total wheelchair lifts estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:** 50%

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. **Describe the defect or noncompliance:** The weld on the pivot pin, which is welded to the swivel plate may fail

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www.Wabtec.com

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance: A poor (cold) weld

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance: The occupant, seated in a seat attached to the pivoting plate, may fall of the seat.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur: The seat may appear crooked or out of vertical alignment

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address. N/A

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier: N/A

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

6. **With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

- March 2006 - Received notification from European staff of a failure - no injury
- April 2006 - Received notification of a domestic failure from Lift Aids of Fortworth TX, - no injury

- Between May 2006 and October 2006, Ricon recalled 126, 6-way Power Seat Bases in various inventories
- Between May 2006 and October 2006 Ricon:
    - Inspected and found no problems in 35, 6-way Power Seat Bases
    - Repaired 78 questionable 6-way Power Seat Bases
    - Scrapped 13, 6-way Power Seat Base which we were not able to ascertain condition

7. **With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.** N/A

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www.Wabtec.com

V. Identify the Remedy

8. **Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

Inspect the swivel plate weldment per Ricon Service Bulletin RSB105.A. Replace swivel plate as necessary.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The Replacement parts can be distinguished from the recall components by the reduced number of components. The recalled weldment consists of a pin a bushing and a swivel pate. The new components consist of a pin and a swivel plate only.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The recall condition was corrected in production on all lifts manufactured after May 14, 2007.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailer, and purchasers. Please identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Ricon Corporation anticipates the recall campaign will begin in September 1, 2008. At that time, manufacturers, distributors and dealers will be notified of their responsibilities in coordinating the campaign and making remedies to the recall population.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. **Furnish Recall Communications:** Attached for NHTSA review and approval.