U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: PE 11-030
Date Opened: 09/09/2011
Investigator: Robert Young **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Wheelchair Lift Rollstop Failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: BRAUN CORPORATION
Products: Century 2 and Vista 2
Population: 2,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Wheelchair lift outboard "Rollstop" barrier fails to latch in the upright position. A passenger seated in a wheelchair may unexpectedly roll off the lift.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	TBD	1
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	1	TBD	1
Number of Injuries:	1	TBD	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:**

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

Braun Vista 2 and Century 2 (affected manufacturing dates to be determined) wheelchair lifts may allow unintended wheelchair roll away to occur when the outer barrier system (outboard rollstop) fails to latch. This failure mode is alleged to have allowed an occupied, powered wheelchair, weighing over 850 lb, to roll off an elevated lift resulting in serious injuries to the chair occupant.

Braun has issued two service bulletins (36218 - April 2010 and 36359 - June 2010) and one modified latch kit to address rollstop latching issues with the subject lifts.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope and severity of the alleged defect.