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RECALL MGMT DIV.

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06E-094
(7 pages)

THE BRAUN CORPORATION
"Providing Access to the World"

www.braunlift.com





August 15, 2007

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Recall of Braun manufactured wheelchair lifts
Ref. NHTSA Campaign Number: 06E-094

Dear Mr. Smith:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, and in reply to the Notice published in the Federal Register on August 10th, we are submitting the enclosed Defect and Noncompliance Report. Also attached are drafts of the proposed Dealer notification letter, the proposed notification to the end user, and the instructions regarding the method of remedy.

Our Director of Product Support, Mr. Rick Nelson will be coordinating the recall campaign in the event you or your staff needs to speak with him. He may be reached at 1-800-946-7513, extension 3272.

Sincerely,

Barry E. Wolff

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Director of Risk Management

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Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On October 18, 2006, The Braun Corporation decided that a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403 exists 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. Also on October 18, 2007, Braun filed a Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance. This Petition was denied by NHTSA on August 10, 2007. This report is pursuant to that denial.

Date this report was prepared: **August 15, 2007**

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall: **06E-094**

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164:

The Braun Corporation

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall:

Rick Nelson
Director of Product Support

Telephone Number: **1-800-946-7513 Extension 3272**
Fax Number: **574-946-3143**

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report:

Barry Wolff
Director of Risk Management

Signed: Barry C Wolff

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I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, *for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:*

Generic name of the item: **Wheelchair lift**

Dates of manufacture: **July 6, 2005 to July 19, 2006**

Make: **Braun** Model: **NL, NCL, NVL**

Part Number(s): **N/A** Size: **N/A**

Function: **Moving wheelchairs into, and out of motor vehicles**

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: **N/A**

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents: **100 percent.**

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Items Potentially Involved
NL	**2005 and 2006**	**8.356**
NCL	**2005 and 2006**	**3,066**
NVL	**2005 and 2006**	**1,518**

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: **12,940**

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4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: **100 percent**

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:

Through an investigation prompted by an initial determination of noncompliance by the NHTSA (ref. OA-403-060816B), Braun determined that certain wheelchair lifts were manufactured with noncompliant threshold warning systems. The basis for determining the beginning date of manufacture is that Braun made a change on July 6, 2005 to "desensitize" the threshold warning mechanism, inadvertently taking the lifts out of compliance. The basis for determining the final date of July 19, 2006 is that Braun implemented a redesigned threshold plate on its series 05 lift.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The threshold warning systems of the subject model wheelchair lifts do not conform to the threshold warning signal requirements of FMVSS No. 403 S6.1.3.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The cause of the noncompliance results from misinterpretation of the testing parameters.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The consequence of the noncompliance is that the threshold warning signal may not activate when certain portions of the threshold area are encroached.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

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When the lift platform is one inch or more below vehicle floor level, the threshold warning will activate as a wheelchair rolls onto the edge of the threshold plate, but may deactivate as the wheelchair traverses the center of threshold plate. If the wheelchair continues to move across the threshold plate, the warning will again activate as the wheelchair crosses the opposite edge of the threshold plate. When a semi-ambulatory person using a cane, crutch, or walker (assistive device) encroaches the threshold, it is possible the assistive device may not trigger the warning if placed in the center of the threshold.

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

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

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.

N/A

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.

NHTSA communication OA-403-060816B formed the basis of The Braun Corporation's determination of noncompliance. There have

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been no claims, accidents, injuries or fatalities associated with the noncompliance.

V. Identify the Remedy

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

See the attached remedy instruction.

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

See the attached remedy instruction.

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 series 05 lifts manufactured after July 19, 2006.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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

The Braun Corporation anticipates the recall campaign will begin during the week of August 27, 2007. At that time, Dealers will be notified of their responsibilities in coordinating the campaign and making remedies to the recall population. Also, during the stated week, end users will begin to be notified regarding the recall. The only foreseeable problem centers on our ability in identifying end users, as their identities are only known if they submitted a warranty registration

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card to The Braun Corporation. We will work closely with Dealers to identify end users who are unknown to us.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT *copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

See the attached proposed recall communications.