U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: PE 12-015
Date Opened: 06/14/2012
Date Closed: 01/09/2013
Investigator: Robert Young
Reviewer: Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Wheelchair restraint failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Ricon Corporation
Products: 2005 Ricon Mirage Wheelchair lifts
Population: 2,013

Problem Description: Wheelchair lift remained operational when the wheelchair restraint was unlatched.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: No defect trend identified. Close this Preliminary Evaluation (PE)

Summary:

This investigation was opened based upon allegations made by the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) regarding the operation of a subject lift installed on one of its MCI motorcoaches. On March 6, 2012, an occupied powered wheelchair rolled off an elevated subject lift, injuring the occupant. While looking into this incident, ODI found that NYCTA personnel had failed to utilize the original equipment wheel chair restraint (an interlocked safety belt in this case). Normally, failing to use the belt would mean the lift could not be raised. This is because, to comply with FMVSS 403, S6.4.7.1 and S7.7.2.2, the lift manufacturer's (Ricon) wheel chair retention device incorporates an interlocked belt. With the required interlock, if the belt is not latched, the lift will not operate. However, NYCT failed to use the belt and intentionally disabled the interlock.

ODI is unaware of any other incidents of wheelchair roll-away involving the subject lifts.

Given these facts, a defect trend related to the subject lifts wheel chair retention system has not been identified and this PE is closed.