U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 12-005
Prompted by: 12E-002
Date Opened: 04/16/2012
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Braun Wheelchair Lifts

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: BRAUN CORPORATION
Products: 2006-2010 Century-2 & Vista-2 Lifts
Population: 21,412

Problem Description: Certain Braun wheelchair lifts may experience a roll stop latch failure that may cause injury to a wheelchair occupant.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:**

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open EQ

Summary:

On January, 31, 2012, Braun Corporation (Braun) notified the NHTSA that it had decided a defect exists in certain Century-2 and Vista-2 wheelchair lifts, manufactured from November 20, 2006 through September 10, 2010, and installed on various vans and transit buses. Over time and with frequent use, the roll stop latches on the outer barrier may become bent or misaligned. Should this occur, a wheelchair occupant may defeat or ride over the insufficiently latched roll stop. If this occurs when the lift platform is in an elevated position, the wheelchair's occupant could fall and sustain injury. NHTSA assigned recall number 12E-002 to this matter.

Braun is recalling over 21,000 units through its safety recall. However, over two months after filing its Defect Report with NHTSA, only four (4) vehicle manufacturers have subsequently recalled vehicles outfitted with these affected wheelchair lifts. The Recall Management Division intends to write to Braun to learn if any other vehicle manufacturer was sold this defective product.

The purpose of this EQ is to write to any other companies that might have purchased these wheelchair lifts, notify them of this defect in any vehicles they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.