U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 13-003
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 06/13/2013
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Wheelchair Lift Cable May Short Circuit

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Ricon Corporation
Products: S-Series and K-Series Wheelchair Lifts
Population: 4,075 (Estimated)

Problem Description: S-Series and K-Series wheelchair lifts equipped with an optional armored pendant cable may have been installed such that it doesn't clear the wheelchair lift and may cause a short circuit resulting in a fire.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Equipment Query (EQ) investigation is opened.

Summary:

On October 23, 2012, Ricon Corporation (Ricon) notified the NHTSA that it had decided a defect exists in certain model S-Series and K-Series wheelchair lifts manufactured after August 1, 2006 and equipped with an optional armored pendant cable. The cable may have been installed such that it doesn't clear the wheelchair lift; and, installed without a protective cover or an improperly installed protective cover. The cable may contact the power lug at the base of the wheelchair lift causing a short circuit that could result in a fire. Ricon identified the number of units affected to be 3,780. This matter was assigned recall number 12E-038.

On January 28, 2013, Ricon notified the NHTSA that the potential number of units affected in recall 12E-038 had increased to 4,075. This matter was assigned recall number 13E-001. Recall 12E-038 has been superseded by recall 13E-001.

Ricon has supplied the NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying 23 other manufacturers that may have incorporated these wheelchair lifts into their vehicles. However, a Part 573 Report has not been filed at this time by all of these potentially affected vehicle manufacturers.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to the companies that purchased the Ricon wheelchair lifts, notify them of this defect, and ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.