U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 13-005
Prompted by: 13E-020
Date Opened: 07/30/2013
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Flip Seat Pinch Point

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: C. E. White Company
Products: CE White Flip Seat
Population: 2,160 (Estimated)

Problem Description: When a passenger seat is located behind a Flip Seat, the occupant of the other seat may insert their toes and/or foot into the lower frame of the Flip Seat and could suffer a pinch point to their toes and/or foot.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

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

Summary:

On April 18, 2013, The C.E. White Company (CE White) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain model Flip Seats: Flip Seat, Quasi Static QSJ11 (30", 36", 39" and 45"); Flip Seat, Student Safety Seat SSSJ (30", 36", 39" and 45"); and, Flip Seat, School Bus Seat SBJ (30", 36", 39" and 45"). The Flip Seats were shipped to CE White customers between the dates of September 12, 2005 and January 31, 2013.

When a Flip Seat is placed in a location in the vehicle with a passenger seat located behind the Flip Seat, it is possible for the occupant of the other seat to insert their toes and/or foot into the lower frame area of the Flip Seat. Should a passenger choose to occupy the Flip Seat, the occupant of the other passenger seat located behind the Flip Seat could suffer a pinch point injury to their toes and/or foot. CE White identified the total number of units affected to be 2,160. This matter was assigned recall number 13E-020.

CE White has supplied the NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying 7 manufacturers that may have incorporated these Flip Seats into school buses. However a Part 573 Report has not been filed by all of these potentially affected vehicle manufacturers at this time.

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