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14E-010
(5 pages)

Ricon Corporation
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March 24, 2014

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division, NVS-215
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Part 573 Defect Report – Armored pendant cable - Reference: Ricon S & K-series Public Use Platform Lifts Recalled under NHTSA Recall number 13E-001 pursuant to Part 573 Report filed on January 11, 2013, originally filed on September 7, 2012, as recall number 12E-038.

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Though several wheelchair lift variants were addressed in Ricon's September 2012 and January 2013 Part 573 Reports, some were missed such that a population of units was shipped with the incorrect pendant. The mistake is attributable to confusion created by the release of a new model combined with personnel turnover related to the relocation of Ricon's S&K Series production facility. Of the 7,485 S&K Series units produced in 2013, 356 units were produced with the old pendant design. Ricon has been diligent in making sure it has identified all of the units with the incorrect pendant, especially considering the complexity of the personnel turnover concomitant with the move of the production facility, and is hereby recalling the additional units now identified.

With the new model described above, the addition of the pendant which has a non-conductive pendant cord occurs at the end of the assembly process making it very easy to inspect and eliminating the possibility of the problem resulting in the recall. With the older, legacy design, the pendant is packaged separately and added to the package containing the finished lift thereby complicating verification through visual inspection as owners, not the factory, attach the pendant. The "clean point" for the newer model lift is November 26, 2012. For the legacy model, the "clean point" point is January 4th, 2014. After these dates, the possibility of the pendant cord contacting the power lug is eliminated.

Moreover, as the user population is generally aware of the subject recall, and as Ricon's installation instructions have been improved to reflect the corresponding hazard and the need to protect the end of the power cable, the probability of existence of the conditions that precipitated the original event based solely on the presence of the unprotected pendant cord is significantly reduced. In fact, Ricon has received no reports of problems except the original incident of July 14, 2012, that precipitated the recall. Nevertheless, Ricon will recall the additional units.

As originally filed on September 28, 2012, and refiled on January 11, 2013, Ricon Corporation decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety 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. The original report was prepared on September 28, 2012, and refiled on January 11, 2013.

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1. The full name of the fabricating manufacturer is:
   Ricon Corporation
   A Wabtec Company
   7900 Nelson Road
   Panorama City, CA 91402

The corporate official who prepared this report and whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall is the undersigned, and may be reached at the address and telephone and fax numbers listed in the letterhead.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stanton D. Saucier, PE
Vice President – Marketing and Product Planning
Ricon Corp. A Wabtec Company

Enclosures: 1) Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Ricon Armored Pendant Cable
2) Revised Summary List of Vehicle manufactures and affected units

Part 573 Defect Report

I and II - Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment and the Recall Population

2. **Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall:**
   Ricon Public Use,"S" and "K" Series lifts equipped with an optional armored pendant cable. The affected population is comprised of eight (8) model numbers all ending in "B" indicating the unit is equipped with an armored pendant cord:

S2003-XXXXXXXB S2005-XXXXXXXB S2010-XXXXXXXB S5505-XXXXXXXB S5510-XXXXXXXB	K2010-XXXXXXXB K5505-XXXXXXXB K5510-XXXXXXXB

3. **Identify the Recall Population:** All lifts of the aforementioned models manufactured in 2013 and up to January 4, 2014. The total number of lifts being recalled is 356.

4. **Approximate percentage of total wheelchair lifts estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:**
   100% of the aforementioned model numbers manufactured during the referenced period.

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III. Describe the Defect

5. **Describe the defect:**
The affected lifts are equipped with a hand held pendant control whereupon the cord is protected by a flexible, steel conduit (an armored pendant cable) and an external power lug at the base of the hydraulic pump. In the event the lift is installed such that the armored pendant cable is not managed to be kept clear of the wheelchair lift and the power lug protective, elastomeric cover is either omitted or improperly installed, the armored pendant cable may contact the power lug resulting in a high current short circuit and the possibility of fire.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect:
Failure to install the pendant cable such that it is kept clear of the wheelchair lift base combined with an improperly installed or omitted protective elastomeric boot.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect:
If the aforementioned short circuit occurs and is not removed within a few seconds, a vehicle fire may result in placing vehicle occupants at risk.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur:
Sparks at the base of the lift power pack, rapid heating of the armored pendant cable, wisps of smoke, strong smell of burnt plastic.

If the defect is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.
Not applicable

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:
Not applicable

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

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.**
On July 14, 2012, a bus operated by First Transit in Independence, Missouri, was involved in a thermal incident that resulted in the interior of the vehicle being severely damaged while the vehicle was in operation. The vehicle was a 2012 Ford F550/Glaval Entourage model bus bearing vehicle identification number (VIN) 1FDGF5GY9CEB50858.

Though the damage to the vehicle was extensive, no injuries were reported as a result.

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The manufacturer, Glaval, retained the services of ITC Experts (ITC) to investigate the incident and determine the cause of the fire, and an inspection took place on August 2, 2012, at the First Transit garage in Independence, Missouri.

ITC's report was made available to Ricon on August 29, 2012. Upon review of the ITC report furnished by Glaval and completion of an internal investigation of the relevant documents, Ricon concluded that a defect was present on Friday, September 28, 2012.

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.** Given the possible severity of the outcome, the action taken by Ricon is based solely on the single occurrence involving the Glaval bus in Independence, Missouri.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. **Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.** Ricon will provide instructions for managing the pendant cord and will supply a supplemental elastomeric power lug cover kit at no charge.

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

a. The lifts power cord will be treated with a new non-conducting cover.

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.

Any units supplied with an armored pendant cord after January 4, 2014, are equipped with a non-conductive sheath over the armored pendant cord.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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

Customers that received any of the 356 units will be notified by April 15, 2014.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. **Furnish Recall Communications:**
Attached for NHTSA review and approval.

OEM Manufacturers to whom affected lifts were sold.
March 24, 2014

Ref	Customer	Total
1	SUPREME CORP	116
2	GLAVAL BUS INC	43
3	COACH & EQUIPMENT	39
4	CHAMPION BUS, INC.	29
5	ELDORADO NATIONAL (KANSAS), INC	28
6	TURTLE TOP	18
7	MOBILITYWORKS, INC. (COMMERCIAL)	14
8	FOREST RIVER, INC	10
9	GOSHEN COACH, INC. A THOR COMPANY	10
10	TRANSPORTATION COLLABORATIVE DBA. TRANS TECH BUS	6
11	AMERITRANS BUS	2
		315
	Miscellanous Non-OEM Sales	41
	Grand Total	356