U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-013
Prompted by: 14E-041
Date Opened: 11/21/2014
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Wheelchair Lift Platform Cracking

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Ricon Corporation
Products: Ricon Wheelchair Lifts, S2005, S2010, S5005, S5505, S5510
Population: 28,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The platform-side plate of the affected wheelchair lifts may crack.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is Opened.

Summary:

In a letter dated July 14, 2014 and amended on July 31, 2014, Ricon Corporation (Ricon) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain model S2005, S2010, S5005, S5010, S5505, and S5510 wheelchair lifts manufactured after January 1, 2006. The platform-side plate of the affected wheelchair lifts may crack. If the platform-side plates crack, the lift platform can separate from the lift and come to rest against the vehicle's lift door. When the doors are opened, the platform may fall out, increasing the risk of injury to the lift operator. This matter was assigned recall number 14E-041.

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

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