U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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Investigation: RQ 15-002
Date Opened: 03/18/2015 **Date Closed:** 10/16/2015
Investigator: Robert Young **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Otto Matheke
Subject: Wheelchair lift platform failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Ricon Corporation
Products: 2006-2014 S2000 and 5500-Series Wheelchair Lifts
Population: 28,000

Problem Description: Recall 14E-041 Remedy Failure.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	6	6	6**
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Close this RQ. Influenced recall 15E068

Summary:

On July 15, 2014, Ricon Corporation released safety recall 14E-041 to address lower pivot fatigue fractures in certain of its S-series wheel chair lifts. Ricon took this action after becoming aware of subject lift field failures including six involving school buses owned and operated by First Student (a school transport contractor) in Baltimore, MD. Ricon's remedy in 14E-041 was the installation of an "elastomeric bumper kit" (essentially a rubber bumper), designed to limit lift platform oscillation while in the stowed position.

This RQ was opened when it became evident that lower pivot fatigue failures were continuing to occur on buses that had been remedied pursuant to 14E-041.

On February 25, 2015, we were contacted by First Student, Baltimore regarding a recall remedy failure of a Ricon S-series wheelchair lift platform in three of its buses. We inspected those buses the following day and later, with Ricon staff. Subsequently the pivot bushing holes in the folding link arms were found to be larger than specified thus allowing the busing to withdraw and the lift to oscillate while stowed. This movement stressed the link arms near the pivot bushing hole causing them to crack. Since the remedy in 14E-041 was inadequate, Ricon decided to conduct a second recall (15E-068) to address the newly discovered root cause.

With that recall, this RQ is closed.