U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: RQ 15-002
Date Opened: 03/18/2015
Investigator: Robert Young **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: School bus wheelchair lift collapse

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

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

Problem Description: Recall 14E-041 Remedy Failure.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	TBD	3
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	1	TBD	1

***Description of Other:** One school bus fleet reporting three lift pivot failures

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Recall Query (RQ)

Summary:

On February 25, 2015, the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) was contacted by a school transportation services company regarding a recall remedy failure of a Ricon S-series wheelchair lift platform in three of its buses. ODI staff inspected one of the buses and found the lower left pivot completely fractured on a wheelchair lift installed 212 days (and 11,862 miles) earlier. The lift was outfitted with the remedy as described in recall 14E-041 intended to prevent such failures.

Bus maintenance staff advised that, in addition to the fractured pivots, they found both platform bumpers (installed as remedial components in recall 14E-041) completely bent back against the arms rendering them ineffective.

During the inspection, ODI also noted the lift door window was cracked. The cracked window represented additional evidence that the platform continued to oscillate while in the stowed position despite the presence of the recall remedy platform bumpers.

ODI is opening this Recall Query to assess the effectiveness of the remedy in safety recall 14E-041.