

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On FEBRUARY 15, 2007, 1999, U.S. BUS CORP. [MFR] decided that ~~(a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)~~ (a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 404) 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.

Date this report was prepared APRIL 9, 2007

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer/brand name/trademark owner of the recalled item of equipment. If the recalled item of equipment is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

RICON CORPORATION

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

BILL HINZE - VICE PRESIDENT

Telephone Number: 800-322-2884 Fax No.: 818-267-3001

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.
MICHAEL A. SYKES
PRODUCT SAFETY ENGINEER

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5226 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

Signed: Michael G. Jr.

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:

Generic name of the item: WHEELCHAIR LIFT

Make: RICON Model: 2000

Part Number: _____ Size: _____

Function: WHEELCHAIR LIFT

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

MANUFACTURED BETWEEN 1/6/2006 AND 9/6/2006

Make: RICON Model: 5000

Part Number: _____ Size: _____

Function: WHEELCHAIR LIFT

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

MANUFACTURED BETWEEN 1/6/2006 AND 9/6/2006

Make: _____ Model: _____

Part Number: _____ Size: _____

Function: _____

Model Years Involved _____

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

Make: _____ Model: _____

Part Number: _____ Size: _____

Function: _____

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled:

LIST SERIAL NUMBERS PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996, through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

4%

II. Identifying the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of items of equipment recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Items Potentially Involved
<u>SMARDUS, UNIVERSE</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>25</u>

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

25

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of items of equipment estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 4%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:

BY SERIAL NUMBERS PROVIDED BY RECON CORP.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

INNER BARRIER INTERLOCK SWITCH SYSTEM IN THE LIFT BASEPLATE NOT
DETECTING THE PRESENCE OF A PASSENGER

Describe the cause(s) of the ~~defect~~ noncompliance condition.

INSTALLER RUNS WIRES THROUGH THE BASEPLATE ASSEMBLY.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

A WHEELCHAIR CAN TIP BACKWARD ONTO THE LIFT PLATFORM; A STANDER COULD
LOSE HIS OR HER BALANCE AND FALL

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

NONE

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

RICON CORPORATION 7900 NELSON ROAD
PANORAMA CITY, CA 91402

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

BILL HINZE, VP

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

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.

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.

DETERMINATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE BY RECON CORP, AND
NOTIFICATION BY LETTER DATED 2/1/07

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.

REMOVAL AND RE-ROUTING OF CERTAIN WIRES, AND TESTING

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

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.

UNKNOWN

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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

UPON APPROVAL OF CUSTOMER LETTER, MAILING WILL COMMENCE WITHIN 2 WEEKS.
CUSTOMERS WILL BE ADVISED TO CONTACT RECALL TO SCHEDULE REPAIRS.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the

notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.

Note: These documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.



INNOVATION IN ACCESS

February 1, 2007

Mr. Michael Sykes
U.S. Bus Corporation (820250)
US Bus Corporation
PO BOX 329
Suffern, NY 10901-0329

RE: Equipment Safety Standard Non-Compliance Notification

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic And Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Dear Mr. Sykes,

Ricon Corp. needs your assistance in notifying your customers about a recall of certain wheelchair lift products built between January 6, 2006 and September 6, 2006 inclusive. Ricon Corporation has determined that a safety related non-compliance with S6.10.2.7 of the FMVSS 403 might exist in certain wheelchair lifts manufactured by Ricon on the above dates.

WHAT IS BEING RECALLED:

This recall process applies to the "Inner Barrier Interlock" only on Ricon's "2000 and 5500" series platform lifts labeled for "DOT Public Use". It does not apply to other Ricon products.

WHY IS IT BEING RECALLED:

The potential non-compliance with S6.10.2.7 of the FMVSS 403 is the result of the inner barrier interlock switch system in the lift baseplate not detecting the presence of a passenger (either wheelchair or standee) on the inner barrier and allowing the platform to move down more than one inch below floor level while occupied. This condition can result at installation if the installer runs wires through the baseplate assembly and the wires lodge under the trigger block for the interlock switch interfering with the switch movement. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations it may be possible for the wheelchair to tip backwards onto the platform if the user is backing onto the lift from inside the vehicle and has the small front wheels fully or partially on the inner barrier when the platform was lowered. A standee could lose his or her balance if they were positioned fully or partly on the inner barrier when the platform was lowered. Either condition could cause personal injury. No accidents have been reported as a result of this condition to date.

Ricon Corporation
7900 Nelson Road, Panorama City, California 91402
Tel 818-267-3000 • Toll-Free 800-322-2884 • Fax 818-267-3001
www.RiconCorp.com • e-mail: sales@RiconCorp.com



INNOVATION IN ACCESS

NHTSA – equipment non-compliance notification

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WHAT YOU AS THE OEM/INSTALLER NEED TO DO:

Ricon has enclosed a complete list of the lifts you purchased that were manufactured during the specified time period. **This information will help you identify your end-user customers and provide the following instructions to them:**

1. Park the vehicle in a safe location and operate the lift through the unfold/deploy cycle.
2. With the lift at the vehicle floor level, place a 25 pound weight completely on any part of the inner barrier, (yellow painted plate) and push the down switch.
3. If the lift platform goes down one inch or less and then stops all movement, the lift may continue to be safely operated.
4. **If the platform continues to move downward, the operator should take the following steps:**
 - a. Remove the 25-pound weight, return the lift to the stowed position in the vehicle and turn off power to the hand control.
 - b. Tag the lift to show it is **NOT OPERATIONAL** following your own "lockout/red tag" procedures.
 - c. Contact Ricon Customer Support Dept at 800-322-2884 for guidance on how to correct the non-compliance.
 - d. **DO NOT USE THE LIFT** again until a factory-trained technician has corrected the non-compliant condition.

WHAT RICON CORPORATION WILL DO:

Upon notification from **your end-user customer**, Ricon will work with them to locate and correct the source of interference or other problem with the inner barrier interlock switch as quickly as possible. If the end-user is already factory trained to perform this service, the repairs can be done at the operator's location. If the end-user is not factory trained to perform this service, we will arrange for the repairs to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. In some cases, we may have these repairs performed by Ricon Corp. personnel.

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The lift repairs may include removal and/or re-routing any added wire running through the baseplate and/or replacement of the switch block assembly. We will provide all the necessary replacement parts at No Charge. If the repairs are done by the end-user, Ricon will pay one-hour labor at \$62.00.

If the lift is inspected and/or repaired by an authorized Ricon dealer and it is not completed within 3 business days, please notify Ricon Customer Support at the toll free number listed above.

If, after contacting the authorized dealer and Ricon Customer Support, your inspection and/or repair is not completed in a reasonable time and without charge you may notify:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S W
Washington, D. C. 20590
Phone (888) 327-4236
(D.C. residents only - 202-366-0123)

Ricon Corp. will take responsibility for compiling and submitting required "Quarterly Reports" to NHTSA covering end-user inspection or repairs upon receipt of the customer (end-user) contact information from each OEM.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions concerning these procedures please contact the undersigned at (818) 267-3012 or by email at BHinze@RiconCorp.com.

Sincerely,

Bill Hinze
Vice President
Ricon Corp.

Ricon Corporation
7990 Nelson Road, Panorama City, California 91402
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