



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*November 17, 2008*

MR. STANTON SAUCIER  
GENERAL MANAGER  
FARBER SPECIALTY VEHICLES  
7052 AMERICANA PARKWAY  
REYNOLDSBURG OH 43068

NVS-215dgl  
08V-590

SUBJECT: THRESHOLD WARNING SYSTEM/FMVSS 404/RICON

DEAR MR. SAUCIER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Farber Specialty Vehicles' notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 404, "Platform Lift Installations in Motor Vehicles," in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
FARBER/SPECIALTY VEHICLE/2005-2008

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08V-590

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 6, 2008

**Components:** EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 32

**Summary:**

FARBER SPECIALTY IS RECALLING 32 MY 2005-2008 COMMERCIAL MOBILE COMMAND SPECIALTY VEHICLES BUILT ON WORKHORSE, FREIGHTLINER, CHEVROLET, FORD, UTILIMASTER AND WINNEBAGO CHASSIS AND EQUIPPED WITH RICON PLATFORM STYLE WHEELCHAIR LIFTS. THESE VEHICLES FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 404, "PLATFORM LIFT INSTALLATIONS IN MOTOR VEHICLES." THE THRESHOLD WARNING SYSTEM MAY NOT DETECT THE PRESENCE OF A WHEELCHAIR OR MOBILITY AID USER IN A CERTAIN SPOT WITHIN THE DEFINED THRESHOLD AREA.

**Consequence:**

THE USER OF THE LIFT COULD BE INJURED SHOULD THE LIFT MOVE UNINTENTIONALLY.

**Remedy:**

FARBER SPECIALTY IS WORKING WITH RICON TO CORRECT THE WHEELCHAIR LIFTS FREE OF CHARGE (PLEASE SEE 07E095). OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON AT 1-818-267-3000 OR FARBER SPECIALTY AT 1-818-267-3016.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

This recall was the subject of an Equipment Query, EQ08-011, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The information in your noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it does not quite meet all the requirements of Part 577.

The following sentence needs to be added as the first sentence on the letter: "This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act."

The second paragraph needs to read: "Faber Specialty Vehicles has decided that certain model year 2005-2007 specialty vehicles [specify the makes and models of vehicles involved] equipped with wheelchair lifts supplied by Ricon Corporation fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 404, "Platform Lift Installations in Motor Vehicles. This decision was based on information provided by Ricon that a noncompliance exists in some of the wheelchair lifts that Ricon manufactured from April 1, 2005 through October 9, 2007."

Also add the following NHTSA hotline information: "...the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>."

We have reviewed your sample envelope and it meets the requirements of part 577.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in your report, Ricon will be handling the remedy and quarterly reporting for this campaign. However, please be advised that 49 CFR 573.6 provides that the vehicle manufacturer is responsible for any safety related defect or any noncompliance in the vehicle or any item of original equipment. If Ricon's campaign is not satisfactory, you may be required to conduct a follow-up notification.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [Patricia.wallace@dot.gov](mailto:Patricia.wallace@dot.gov), [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement