



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*December 12, 2008*

MR. GREG STEBBINS  
WARRANTY MANAGER  
RIFLED AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS  
2810 EARLHAM PLACE  
HIGH POINT NC 27263

NVS-215dgl  
08V-650

SUBJECT: THRESHOLD WARNING SYSTEM/FMVSS 404/RICON

DEAR MR. STEBBINS:

This letter serves to acknowledge Rifled Air Conditioning Systems' (RAC) 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:**  
CHEVROLET/EXPRESS/2001

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08V-650

**Mfg's Report Date:** December 1, 2008

**Components:** EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 2

**Summary:**

RAC IS RECALLING 2 MY 2001 CHEVROLET EXPRESS PRIVATE TRANSPORT VEHICLES 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:**

RAC 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 RAC AT 1-800-627-1707.

**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 letter and it does not meet the requirements of Part 577. Please revise your owner letters to include the following updated information.

The second paragraph should read: “Rifled Air Conditioning, in conjunction with the Ricon Corporation, has decided that certain 2001 Express private transport vehicles built on Chevrolet chassis and equipped with Ricon platform style lifts manufactured between April 1, 2005 and October 9, 2007, fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 404, “Platform Lift Installations in Motor Vehicles.”

A sentence needs to be added concerning leased vehicles, i.e., “Federal regulations require that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.”

A reimbursement paragraph needs to be added, i.e., “If you had this repair performed before you received this letter, you may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of the problem associated with this recall. For more information contact RAC at 1-800-627-1707.”

NHTSA’s address information has changed. Please revise your letter with the current 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>.”

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).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available.

Please provide us with the beginning and ending dates for the build date range of vehicles affected by this recall.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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