

Elkhart Coach

**52807 County Road 7
Elkhart, Indiana 46514**

**08V-594
(7 Pages)**

November 11, 2008

Alex Ansley

US DOT- NHTSA
Office of Defects Investigation
Recall Management / W46-437
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Defect Information Notice 07E-097, Anti-Stow Interlock

Mr. Ansley:

In accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Elkhart Coach, a Division of Forest River Inc., reports a safety campaign to recall 9 Elkhart Coach Buses manufactured between 12/13/05 and 9/28/06 with a defect in the Ricon Corp Wheelchair Lift Anti-Stow Interlock.

Attached is Elkhart Coach's Defect Information Notice, a copy of the Dealer Letter, and a copy of the Owner Letter.

Please contact me if you have any questions. ntownsend@forestriverinc.com or 574-264-5179 Ext. 113

Sincerely yours,

Noel Townsend

RECEIVED
2008 NOVEMBER 14 - 2:00 PM
OFFICE OF RECALL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Elkhart Coach

52807 County Road 7
Elkhart, Indiana 46514

Defect Information Report (Section 573.6)

November 11, 2008

(c)(2) Manufacturer: Elkhart Coach
52807 County Road 7
Elkhart, Indiana 46514
(574) 264-5179

Brands: Elkhart Coach

(c)(2) Vehicles identification:

Models affected:

ECI and ECII

Model Years: 2005-2007

Manufacture Dates: 12/13/05-9/28/06

Basis for Determining Population: All models built with certain Ricon wheelchair lift products that Ricon manufactured between April 1 2005 and September 6, 2006. Specifically the recall process applies to the "Anti-stow interlock" only on Ricon's "1200, 2000 and 5500" series platform lifts labeled for "DOT Public Use" and "DOT Private Use". It does not apply to other Ricon products.

Component Manufacturer if other than the vehicle manufacture: Ricon Corporation.

(c)(3) Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected: 9 buses

(c)(4) Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect: 100%

(c)(5) Description of the Defect: The non-compliance with S6.10.2.3 of the FMVSS 403 is the result of the Anti-stow interlock system not detecting the presence of a 50 pound test weight when the weight is located close to the pivot point for the platform. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations it may be possible for the lift platform to begin stowing while a wheelchair or mobility aid user is still occupying the area of the platform close to the pivot point of the platform. This situation could cause personal injury.

49CFR Section 577.5(f) Evaluation of Safety Risk: In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations it may be possible for the lift platform to begin stowing while a wheelchair or mobility aid user is still occupying the area of the platform close to the pivot point of the platform. This situation could cause personal injury.

(c)(6) Chronology of Principle Events:

Elkhart Coach

52807 County Road 7

Elkhart, Indiana 46514

November 1 2007, Ricon Corp determined non-compliance with FMVSS 403. Elkhart Coach received notification and has determined the need complete the recall procedures.

(c)(7) Noncompliance-test or other data: Not applicable

(c)(8) Remedial program:

Requires adjustment by Ricon factory trained service technician to the pressure switch(es) on customer lifts at no charge.

Estimated Dealer Notification Date: Elkhart Coach notified the dealer on 11/14/08

Estimated Owner Notification Date: Elkhart Coach notified the owner on 11/14/08

Reimbursement Plan: Parts and labor for the repair will be at no charge.

(c)(9) Communication sent to dealers and owners: Copies of notification letters sent by Elkhart Coach have been submitted with this report.

(c)(10) Copy of proposed owner notification letter: A copy of Elkhart Coach's owner notification letter has been submitted with this report.

(c)(11) Manufacturer's campaign number: #07E-097 Anti-Stow Interlock System

SAMPLE DEALER NOTIFICATION LETTER

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Dear [Insert name or generic title]:

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

Elkhart Coach has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the wheelchair lifts of certain mid-sized buses. Specifically, Ricon Corporation, a wheelchair lift products company, has determined that a safety related noncompliance with S6.10.2.3 of the FMVSS 403 exists in public and private use wheelchair lifts manufactured by Ricon between April 1, 2005 and September 6, 2006

! I M P O R T A N T !

- Your bus contains a lift that is being recalled
- You should contact your nearest Ricon Dealer to arrange for service to be performed at no cost.

Why is a recall being conducted?

The non-compliance with S6.10.2.3 of the FMVSS 403 is the result of the Anti-stow interlock system not detecting the presence of a 50 pound test weight when the weight is located close to the pivot point for the platform. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations it may be possible for the lift platform to begin stowing while a wheelchair or mobility aid user is still occupying the area of the platform close to the pivot point of the platform. This situation could cause personal injury.

What are we doing about the problem?

We are working with our Dealers, Ricon, and the Bus Owners to facilitate the recall process and ensure the necessary service work is completed with minimal interruption of service. Upon notification from your end-user customer, Ricon will work with them to complete pressure switch adjustments on their lifts. If the end-user or you the Dealer are already factory

trained to perform this service, the pressure switch adjustment can be done at the Dealer or end-user's location. If the end-user, or you the Dealer are not factory trained to perform this service, the owner will have to arrange for service to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. Ricon will provide all the necessary adjustments at No Charge and will pay labor of \$37.50 for each adjustment.

What should you do?

Elkhart Coach needs you help in contacting Owners so that the wheelchair lifts can be retrofitted. We are sending notifications out to the owners that have filled out warranty registrations, but we may need your help contacting the remaining owners, and arranging the required service.

Who should you contact if you have further questions or concerns?

If you have any questions concerning these procedures please contact Oscar Pardinias at Ricon Corp at (818) 267-3085 or by email at OPardinias@Wabtec.com. Or you may contact Noel Townsend Elkhart Coach at 574-264-5179 Ext. 113.

If you have already paid to have you're your customers bus repaired for this condition, you may be eligible for reimbursement of the charges you paid for the repair. To learn more about what you need to do to obtain reimbursement, please contact Oscar Pardinias at Ricon Corp at (818) 267-3085 or by email at OPardinias@Wabtec.com.

If after attempting to have your vehicle repaired you believe you have not been able to have your vehicle remedied without charge and within a reasonable amount of time, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C., 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 apologize for any inconvenience this safety recall may cause, but your safety is our first concern.

Sincerely,

Elkhart Coach

SAMPLE OWNER NOTIFICATION LETTER

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Dear [Insert name or generic title]:

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

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! I M P O R T A N T !

- Your Elkhart Coach Bus is being recalled
- You should contact your Elkhart Coach Dealer or nearest Ricon Dealer to arrange for service to be performed at no cost.

Why is a recall being conducted?

The non-compliance with S6.10.2.3 of the FMVSS 403 is the result of the Anti-stow interlock system not detecting the presence of a 50 pound test weight when the weight is located close to the pivot point for the platform. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations it may be possible for the lift platform to begin stowing while a wheelchair or mobility aid user is still occupying the area of the platform close to the pivot point of the platform. This situation could cause personal injury.

What are we doing about the problem?

A free pressure switch adjustment is being provided by Ricon Corp to remedy this non-compliance. Upon notification from you, Ricon will work with you to the necessary adjustments.

What should you do?

Contact Ricon with your Wheelchair Lift serial number and model number confirm it's in the recall and to arrange for your unit to be serviced. In most cases the Bus will need to be returned to you're your nearest Ricon service center or to your

dealer for service.

Upon notification, Ricon will provide your Dealer or the Ricon authorized dealer, Ricon will provide all the necessary adjustment instructions and/or replacement parts Free of Charge.

What if you no longer own this [identify item]?

If you no longer own this bus please contact Noel Townsend at 574-264-5179 Ext. 113 with the new owners contact information. Or email ntownsend@forestriverinc.com

Who should you contact if you have further questions or concerns?

If you have any questions concerning these procedures please contact Oscar Pardinias at Ricon Corp at (818) 267-3085 or by email at OPardinias@Wabtec.com. Or you may contact Noel Townsend Elkhart Coach at 574-264-5179 Ext. 113.

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Elkhart Coach