

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

On November 1, 2007, Ricon Corporation [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: December 15, 2008

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 07E-95

I. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Leader Industries
10941 Weaver Avenue
South El Monte, CA 91733

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

Sheryl Hunter
Administrator
sheryl.hunter@leader-ambulance.com
Phone 626 575-0880
Fax 626 575-0286

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Leader Industries
Sheryl Hunter, Administrator

Signed:

RECEIVED
2009 JANUARY 15 - 9:00 AM
OFFICE OF RECALL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210, by FAX at (202) 366-7882, or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Ford **Model Years Involved:** (10) 2006 **Model(s):** Wheelchair Vans

Production Dates: Beginning: 4/1/05 **Ending** 9/6/06

VIN Range:

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** Wheelchair Van

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): Ford **Model Years Involved:** (4) 2005 **Model(s):** Wheelchair Vans

Production Dates: Beginning: 4/1/05 **Ending** 9/6/06

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** Wheelchair Van

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

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 Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
"S" Series Lift	2006	10
"S" Series Lift	2005	4

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 14

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

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 vehicles:

Purchase records were matched to sales records. All records were identified by Ricon Lift Number

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.

“The Threshold Warning System may not detect the presence of a “wheelchair test device” when tested in accordance with S7.4 of the FMVSS 403.”

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

“Results from misinterpretation of the testing parameters.”

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

“The threshold warning signal may not activate when a certain point on the threshold area is encroached.”

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

“With the lift platform one inch or more below vehicle floor level, the Threshold Warning System will activate when a wheelchair or individual using a mobility aid enters the designated Threshold area but may deactivate if the wheelchair or mobility aid user continues to move toward a certain point on the threshold area.”

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

N/A

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

N/A

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. N/A

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.

“NHTSA compliance Test Report # 638657A and NHTSA -2007-28140 Notice 1 formed the basis for Ricon Corporation’s determination of noncompliance. There have been no claims, accidents, injuries or fatalities associated with this noncompliance.”

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

“Upon notification from the end-user customer, Ricon will work with them to obtain the necessary parts and make the retrofit. If the end-user is already factory trained to perform this service, the retrofit can be done at the end-user’s location. If the end-user is not factory trained to perform this service we (Ricon) will arrange for the retrofit to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. The lift retrofit will include removal and replacement of the TWS covers using TWS retrofit kit # 00002. We (Ricon) will provide all the necessary replacement parts at No Charge and will pay labor of \$37.50 for each retrofit.”

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

“Replacement of the Threshold Warning System metal covers and optical sensor mounting retainers will correct the noncompliance. Ricon will provide a kit for field replacement at no charge.”

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

“The Replacement parts can be distinguished from the recall components by the location of the openings in the cover where the optical sensors are located. The remedy components will have openings spaced 5.25 inches apart while recall components will have openings spaced 7 inches apart.”

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.

“The recall condition was corrected in production on all lifts manufactured after October 9, 2007.”

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. 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.

All customers were notified by mail of the recall.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. 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) or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to mailing.

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.



LEADER INDUSTRIES Emergency Vehicle Mfg.

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Dear NorCal Manager:

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

Ricon Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in Ricon's platform style wheelchair lifts.

! I M P O R T A N T !

- Your Ricon Lift Model S2005-F1020000A, Lift #187044, is being recalled.
- You should contact your nearest Ricon Dealer. Ricon's Customer Service number is (800) 322-2884. Attached are the Adjustment Procedures that will be performed by a Ricon authorized service center, no parts are necessary.
- Installed on Ford Wheelchair Van W#4613
- VIN 1FTNS24L43H_____

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?

Ricon will work with the end-user to make the necessary adjustments to the pressure switch(es) on the lift(s). If the end-user is already factory trained to perform service on Ricon products, the adjustment can be done at the end-user's location. If the end-user is not factory trained to perform service on Ricon products, call Ricon Corporation to arrange for the adjustment to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer.

What should you do?

Contact Ricon Corporation Customer Service (800) 322-2884, a toll-free number, to make arrangements for the free remedy.

What if you no longer own this vehicle or lift?

Please forward to the new owner this information and send copy to Leader Industries.

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

Ricon Corporation Customer Service (800) 322-2884.
Leader Industries (626)-575-0880.

If you have already paid to have your Ricon Lift Model S2005 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, call Ricon Corporation (800) 322-2884, a toll-free number which will provide those instructions.

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,

Sheryl Hunter

Sheryl.Hunter@leader-ambulance.com

626-575-0880
626-575-0286 FAX

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