



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 19, 2010

MR. DICK SEYBOLT  
PRESIDENT/CEO  
DIAMOND COACH CORPORATION  
2300 WEST 4<sup>TH</sup>  
OSWEGO, KS 67356

NVS-215dgl  
10V-109

**SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR LIFTS/INTERLOCK BELT**

**DEAR MR. SEYBOLT:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Diamond Coach Corporation's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect in the vehicles listed below for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

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:**

DIAMOND COACH/VIP/2007-2009

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 10V-109

**Mfg's Report Date:** March 15, 2010

**Components:** EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 26

**Summary:**

DIAMOND COACH HAS NOTIFIED NHTSA ABOUT A DEFECT IN CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2007-2009 VIP COACHES FITTED WITH RICON PUBLIC USE LIFTS MANUFACTURED BETWEEN DECEMBER 1, 2007 TO DECEMBER 18, 2009. THE RESTRAINT BELT ON THESE LIFTS WAS DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE LIFT FROM MOVING, UNLESS THE TONGUE OF THE BELT IS FULLY ENGAGED AND LATCHED IN THE BUCKLE. RICON HAS DISCOVERED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE OPERATOR TO INSERT THE BELT TONGUE INTO THE BUCKLE WITHOUT FULLY ENGAGING THE LATCHING MECHANISM. IN THIS CASE, THE RESTRAINT BELT WOULD APPEAR TO BE LATCHED, AND THE OPERATOR COULD RUN THE LIFT. IF THE RESTRAINT BELT TONGUE IS NOT FULLY ENGAGED INTO THE RESTRAINT BELT BUCKLE, AND LATCHED, THE LIFT MAY OPERATE WITH AN OCCUPANT ON THE PLATFORM.

**Consequence:**

THE USER OF THE LIFT COULD BE INJURED SHOULD THE LIFT MOVE WITHOUT THE RESTRAINT BELT PROPERLY BUCKLED.

**Remedy:**

DIAMOND COACH IS WORKING WITH RICON AND RICON WILL BE HANDLING THE REMEDY FOR THIS CAMPAIGN. PLEASE SEE RICON'S DEFECT REPORT 09E-060. RICON WILL PROVIDE CUSTOMERS WITH A WARNING DECAL AND A DVD-BASED TRAINING AID. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR BEFORE MARCH 15, 2010. OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON AT 1-818-267-3000 OR DIAMOND COACH AT 1-800-442-4645.

**Notes:**

DIAMOND COACH RECALL NO. RIC-10-2. CUSTOMERS MAY 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).

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 meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 577, however we would like to delete the word "FMVSS" on the first paragraph.

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 contact for this recall will be Delia Lopez who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at [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 toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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