



March 10, 2010

Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
Attention: Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC 20590

In accordance with CFR 49 Part 573, Transportation Collaborative Inc has decided that a defect noncompliance exists on certain 2009 Rondak DW5138FRL , DW8195FRL and DW6158FRL Handicap Accessible School buses manufactured by Trans Tech Bus.

This report was e-mailed to NHTSA on March 11, 2010 to [Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov) and [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov) In addition sent, via UPS.

If there are any questions regarding the information I have submitted, please contact me at 845-988-0419.

Respectfully,

Jose Vazquez  
Warranty





## PART 573 Defects and Noncompliance Report

**Report Date: March 11, 2010**

### I.

Transportation Collaborative Inc has decided to conduct a recall on behalf of Ricon Corporation (Equipment manufacturer). The defect exist on certain 2009 Handicap Accessible School buses Equipped with Ricon Wheel Chair Lift "L- Models" S and K series manufactured between May 1, 2009 and October 31,2009.

Specifically, on Ricon Wheel Chair lift "L-Models" S and K Series Manufactured between October 2007 and December 18, 2009, with serial numbers in the range between 227703 and 252585. The defect exists with the operating software of the wheel chair lift. When a wheel chair lift is being operated and the "UP" button is being pressed to lift the occupant into the vehicle and the operator releases the "UP" button while the lift is still in motion, the lift may continue to move and eventually initiate stowage, which could in turn tilt the platform prematurely.

#### **Vehicles not involved in the recall:**

Vehicles not involved in this recall are not handicap Accessible and do not have Ricon Corporation L- Model S and K Series Wheel Chair lifts.

Vehicles that are equipped with Ricon corporation L-Model S and K Series Wheel Chair lift manufactured after December 18,2009 or do not have matching serial numbers specified by Ricon Corporation are not involved with this recall

#### **Vehicles involved in the recall:**

2009 Rondak DW5135FRL, DW8195FRL and DW6158FRL Trans Tech Bus Handicap Accessible School Buses equipped with Ricon Corporation L-Models S and K series Wheel Chair lift manufactured between May 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009.

### II.

#### **Approximate percentage of the total of vehicle**

**100% estimated to actually contain the noncompliance:**

#### **Vehicle population as of March 11, 2010:**

<b>Model</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles involved</b>
Rondak DW5138FRL	2009	10
DW8195FRL	2009	1





DW6158FRL

2009

1

Total: 12

**Identify the recalled Items of Equipment:**

<b>Make</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Manufacturing Dates:</b>
Ricon Corporation	L-Models S and K Series	October 2007 – December 18, 2009

**Identify and describe how the original recall population was determined:**

On March 8, 2010, Ricon Corporation notified Transportation Collaborative Inc of recall number **09E-061**. The defect relates to the lift operation software installed on Ricon Corporation L-Model S and K Series Wheel Chair Lifts. The notice outlined that the wheel chair lifts were designed to stop automatically when the operator runs it from the ground level to the floor level, as long as the operator continues to depress the “UP” button until the lift stops. However, if the operator releases the “UP” button while the lift is in motion, the lift may continue to move and initiate stowage, which could tilt the platform. Along with the notice, Ricon Corporation supplied a list of affected lifts with serial numbers, which were purchased by Transportation Collaborative. TCI launched an internal investigation in order to identify the vehicle population. The purchasing records of all Ricon lifts purchased were matched to production records, which determined the vehicle identification number and wheel chair lift serial numbers.

**Affected Lift Serial Numbers:**

Range between **227703** and **252585**

**III.**

**Describe the defect:**

Wheel Chair lifts are designed to automatically stop when operated from the ground level to the vehicle floor level, as long as the operator to depress the “UP” button until the lift stops on its own. However, according to Ricon Corporation if the operator releases the “UP” button while the lift is still moving, the lift may continue to move and eventually initiate stowage, which could tilt the platform prematurely.

**Describe the consequence of the defect:**



7 LAKE STATION ROAD

WARWICK, NY 10990

PHONE: (845) 988-2333



In the event that the wheel chair lift operator releases the “UP” button, the ambulatory passenger or a person in a wheel chair during operation may be tipped backwards onto the vehicle platform if the user is backing into the lift from inside the vehicle. A Standee could lose his or her balance if they were positioned fully or partly on the inner barrier when the platform is raised. Either condition could result in personal injury.

**Identify any warning, which can (A) Precede or (B) Occur:**

There are no warnings; the Ricon Wheel Chair L-Models S and K series must be physically inspected for the serial numbers that fall under the outlined serial numbers provided in this report.

**Identify the supplier by corporate name and address of the defective equipment:**

Ricon Corporation  
7900 Nelson Road  
Panorama City, California 91402  
Tel 818-267-3000 Toll-free- 1800-322-2884 Fax 818-267-3001  
[www.RiconCorp.com](http://www.RiconCorp.com) E-mail [DMata@wabtec.com](mailto:DMata@wabtec.com)

**IV.**

**With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the defect was determined:**

**March 8, 2010-** Ricon Corporation, notified Transportation Collaborative Inc. regarding safety recall number **09E-061**. The notice outlined a noncompliance with there L-Model S and K Series Wheel Chair lifts.

**Identify the remedy:**

Transportation Collaborative Inc will notify the owners of the affected vehicles and dealers that sold the vehicles on behalf of Ricon Corporation. Customers and dealers will be required to inspect the Ricon wheel chair lift located at the rear of the vehicle for the equipment serial numbers that match the list provided by Ricon Corporation. Dealers and customers will be asked to report the serial number as it relates the affected Wheel Chair Lifts. The potential remedy as stated by the Ricon Corporation will be a software upload, which will correct the problem. Currently Ricon is designing a software solution and it is not available, when it is available customers will be required to take there vehicles to an authorized Ricon Dealer or repair agent in order to have the recall preformed. Until the software solution is available Ricon, will provide customers with a bulletin outlining proper wheelchair lift operation and will ship customer’s DVD-based training aid to





promote proper lift operation. TCI will supply customers, dealers and or any authorized repair facility with the training aids on behalf of Ricon Corporation at no cost. TCI will assist all customers with scheduling repairs and locating authorized repair facilities.

Any cost incurred to the owners ,purchasers and dealers of Vehicles affected by recall number **09E-061** will be reimbursed by Transportation Collaborative Inc. on behalf of Ricon Corporation within a reasonable time of the notifications. Transportation Collaborative Inc. reimburses customers and dealers within 30days of the remedy.

**Recall Schedule:**

Upon approval of this report , TCI will begin to notify customers by issuing Notification letters to the dealers and customers along with labels and inspection/ installation instructions upon request.

**All questions regarding this recall should be addressed to:**

Jose Vazquez  
Warranty Department  
Transportation Collaborative Inc.  
7 Lake Station Road  
Warwick, New York 10990  
Phone# 845-988-0419 Fax# 845-988-0327

**Prepared by:** Jose Vazquez, Warranty Department TCI

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 3/11/2010

