

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

10V-109
(7 Pages)

On March 15, 2010, Diamond Coach Corporation decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exits 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 Reports.

Date this report was prepared:

March 15, 2010

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):

RIC-10-2

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled.

Diamond Coach Corporation

2300 West 4th

Oswego, KS 67356

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

Dick Seybolt – President/CEO

Telephone Number:

620-795-2191 ex 18

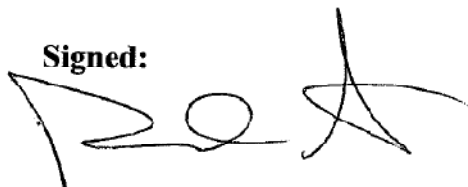
Fax Number:

620-795-4816

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Will Tucker – Engineering Manager

Signed:



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:

Make: **Diamond**

Model Years Involved: **2007-2009**

Model: **VIP**

Production Dates: Beginning: **May 1, 2007** Ending: **December 1, 2009**

VIN Range: Beginning: **N/A** Ending: **N/A**

Vehicle Type: **N/A** Body style: **N/A**

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: **Buses fitted with “Ricon FMVSS Public Use lifts manufactured between December 1, 2007 to December 18, 2009 equipped with a restraint belt.”**

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.

26 lifts meet the requirements of this recall. One lift is not installed; two are in unsold “stock unit” buses. These three will be remedied by Diamond in house and will not be considered in this calculation.

897 total buses produced between May 2007 and December 2009.

26 buses sold with these lifts installed.

$26/897 = 3\%$ of all production in range is possibly affected.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Number of Vehicles

Model Year Potentially Involved

2007-2009

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

26

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

3% of all production in range is possibly affected.

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:

Ricon recall 09E-060 listed the wheelchair lifts affected. The buses Diamond is recalling had these recalled Ricon lifts installed.

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.**

Ricon recall 09E-060 states “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. We have 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.”

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

Ricon recall 09E-060 states “Though it is incumbent on the operator to ensure that the belt is fully engaged and latched, failure to check this is within the realm of foreseeable misuse.”

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

Ricon recall 09E-060 states “This situation could cause personal injury”.

Identify any warning which can occur.

There is no mention of a warning in Ricon’s recall 09E-060. It is assumed by Diamond that if the operator tugged on the belt assembly it would come apart thus proving it wasn’t latched.

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

Ricon Corporation
A Division of Vapor Bus International
7900 Nelson Road
Panorama City, CA 91402

Identify the name and title of the knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Daniel Mata
Recall Coordinator
800-322-2884 ex 3374

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.**

March 8, 2010 – Diamond received certified letter from Ricon Corporation advising them of recall 09E-060.

March 15, 2010 – Diamond submits this 573-report and customer letter to NHTSA.

Diamond has had no reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, or warranty claims that can be attributed to 09E-060.

- 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.**

V. Identify the Remedy

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

Ricon recall 09E-060 states “Ricon will provide your customers with a warning decal and a DVD-based training aid to promote the “Click and Tug” campaign. Ricon may provide other point of use materials to raise awareness of the “Click and Tug” campaign.”

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

There is no mention of distinguishing characteristics of the remedied component in Ricon’s recall 09E-060. It is assumed by Diamond that Ricon will train the operators to properly latch the belt assembly.

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.

Ricon recall 09E-060 states “lifts manufactured between December 1, 2007 to December 18, 2009”. It is assumed by Diamond that Ricon corrected the recall condition in December 2009.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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.

March 15, 2010 – Diamond submits this 573-report and customer letter to NHTSA.

March 22, 2010 – NHTSA approves customer letter and assigns Diamond a recall number for this Ricon defect.

March 24, 2010 -Diamond sends customer letters and submits customer information to Ricon for reporting requirements.

Ricon recall 09E-060 states “Ricon is prepared to assist you with all the materials, the mailings and reporting requirements of this recall. Daniel Mata, Ricon’s Recall Coordinator will assist you with anything you may require.”

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

- 9. 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) for review prior to mailing.***

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

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