

March 22nd 2010

Ms Kathleen DeMeter
Chief, Office and Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NSA-10)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C, 20950
Attn: Mrs Kelly Schuller Kelly.Schuller@dot.gov
(For assignment of recall number)

Re: PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report
Prevost Safety Recall SR10-19: Restraint Belt on Ricon's WheelChair Lift

On March 16th 2010, we have been informed by Ricon that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exits in item of motor vehicle equipment listed below, and we are furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1. Corporate Name of the fabricating manufacturer of the item of equipments being recalled.
 - Name of the Manufacturer: Ricon Corporation, a division of Vapor Bus International
 - Item of equipment subjected to this recall: Wheel Chair Lift model F9TF (Prevost #862662)
 - Contact person at Supplier's
 - Daniel Mata
 - Recall Coordinator
 - Ricon
 - Phone: 800-322-2884 x 3374
 - DMata@wabtec.com

I. Recalled Item & Population

- The recalled item is a Wheel Chair Lift model F9TF manufactured by Ricon (Prevost #862662)
- The recall population was determined based on the supplier's information, i.e lots manufactured by Ricon from December 1st 2007 to December 18th 2009;
- Estimated number of vehicles potentially affected by the Recall: 280
- Approximate percentage of the total number of Ricon F9TF wheelchair lifts estimated to actually contain the defect: 100%, per "PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility Report – Restraint belt buckle (09E-060)" submitted by Ricon to NHTSA.

II. Description of the Defect

Source of the information below: Ricon’s “PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility Report – Restraint belt buckle (09E-060)” submitted to NHTSA.

- **Description:** The lift is equipped with a restraint belt that has an interlock feature designed to prevent the lift from operating if the buckle is not latched. However, if the buckle is not fully latched in the affected vehicles, the lift can operate.
- **Cause of the defective condition:** Per information provided by Ricon, the switch used in the buckle has changed in December 2007 and this would be at the root of the current issue.
- **Consequence:** If the buckle is not fully latched, the lift can operate and a wheelchair may not be adequately protected against movement, possibly resulting in injury to the wheelchair occupant.
- **Warning that can precede:** Failure to hear an audible click as the latching mechanism engages. If tugged the tongue will come out of buckle.

III. Chronology of the Defect Determination

- March 16th 2010** • Letter received from Ricon informing Prevost about this recall.
- March 18th 2010** • Communication with Ricon to get detailed information about recall

To date, no accidents, injuries nor fatalities have been reported to Prevost’s attention, although Ricon reports at least one accident in its PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility report submitted to NHTSA.

IV. Description of the Remedy

The remedy for the field will be as follows:

- Ricon believes that this condition is preventable. Prevost will execute Ricon’s remedy and ask their customers to perform Safety Recall (SR10-19), an educational campaign to raise awareness of this potential condition. All affected lifts will receive instructional and warning decals.

V. How and when the recall condition was corrected in production.

- Same as recall remedy.

VI. Recall Schedule

March 16th 2010	Prevost informed of Ricon’s recall
May 2010	Ricon to have parts available for distribution to end-customers
May 2010	Safety Recall expected to be mailed to customers

No problem with implementing the recall is foreseen.

VII. Recall Communications

Final copy of bulletin will be sent to you shortly. Meanwhile, please find enclosed a draft copy of documents, for your review prior to mailing.

Please let us know the NHTSA notification campaign number assigned to this matter.

Best regards,

Deny Bertrand
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Prevost
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