



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 13, 2012

MR. MIKE SWEITZER
QUALITY SUPERVISOR
ELKHART COACH
52807 COUNTY ROAD 7
ELKHART, IN 46514

NVS-215et
12V-163

SUBJECT: WHEELCHAIR LIFT/OUTER ROLL STOP LATCHING MECHANISM

DEAR MR. SWEITZER:

This letter serves to acknowledge Elkhart Coach'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:

ELKHART/ECI/2006-2010
ELKHART/ECII/2006-2010

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-163

Mfg's Report Date: April 11, 2012

Components: EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 761

Summary:

ELKHART COACH IS RECALLING CERTAIN BUSES EQUIPPED WITH BRAUN CENTURY-2 AND VISTA-2 WHEELCHAIR LIFTS. OVER TIME AND WITH FREQUENT USE, THE ROLL STOP LATCHES ON THE OUTER BARRIER MAY BECOME BENT OR MISALIGNED. A WHEELCHAIR OCCUPANT MAY DEFEAT OR RIDE OVER THE INSUFFICIENTLY LATCHED ROLL STOP.

Consequence:

A WHEELCHAIR OCCUPANT MAY DEFEAT OR RIDE OVER THE INSUFFICIENTLY LATCHED ROLL STOP. IF THIS OCCURS WHEN THE LIFT PLATFORM IS IN AN ELEVATED POSITION, THE WHEELCHAIR'S OCCUPANT COULD FALL AND SUSTAIN INJURY.

Remedy:

ELKHART WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND THE REPAIRS WILL BE PERFORMED BY AUTHORIZED BRAUN DEALERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING APRIL 2012. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BRAUN CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 1-800-488-0359.

Notes:

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).

We have received your proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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).

Your contact for this recall will be Edison Thompson who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525, or by email at Edison.Thompson@dot.gov, or through the office email at 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 read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement