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(4 pages)



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

Date: 06/25/2013

Subject: Safety Recalls EQ13-003, and 13E-001, Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

To Whom It May Concern:

This report serves Farber Specialty Vehicles notification to the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain model S-Series and K-Series Wheelchair lifts manufactured after August 1, 2006 and equipped with an optional armored pendant cable manufacturer by the Ricon Corporation. Ricon decided that this defect existed in these lifts on Friday, September 28, 2012.

1. The full name of the fabricating manufacturer is:  
Farber Specialty Vehicles  
7052 Americana Parkway  
Reynoldsburg, Oh 43068

The official who prepared this report and whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall is the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. England".

Duane England  
Farber Specialty Vehicles  
7052 Americana Parkway  
Reynoldsburg, Oh 43068  
(614) 863-6470  
denland@farberspecialty.com



## Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

### I and II Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment and the Recall Population

2. **Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall:**  
Ricon Public Use, "S" and "K" Series lifts equipped with an optional armored pendant cable. The affected population is comprised of fourteen (14) model numbers ending in either "B" or "3". These characters indicate the unit is equipped with an armored pendant cord:  
  
S20XX-XXXXXXXXB    K20XX-XXXXXXXXB  
S20XX-XXXXXXXX3    K20XX-XXXXXXXX3  
S55XX-XXXXXXXXB    K55XX-XXXXXXXXB  
S55XX-XXXXXXXX3    K55XX-XXXXXXXX3
3. **Identify the Recall Population:**  
After August 1st 2006 Farber Specialty Vehicles received only two wheelchair lifts manufactured with the following model number S55XX-XXXXXXXX3. The total number of lifts being recalled is "2".
4. **Approximate percentage of total wheelchair lifts estimated to actually contain the defect:** 100%

### III. Description of the Defect

5. **Description of the Defect**  
The affected lifts are equipped with a hand held pendant control whereupon the cord is protected by a flexible, steel conduit (an armored pendant cable) and an external power lug at the base of the hydraulic pump. In the event the lift is installed such that the armored pendant cable is not managed to be kept clear of the wheelchair lift and the protective, elastomeric cover is either omitted or improperly installed, the armored pendant cable may contact the power lug resulting in a high current short circuit and the possibility of fire.

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect:**

Failure to install the pendant cable such that it is kept clear of the wheelchair lift base combined with an improperly installed or omitted protective elastomeric boot.

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect:**

If the aforementioned short circuit occurs and is not removed within a few seconds, a vehicle fire may result in placing vehicle occupants at risk.



**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur:**

Sparks at the base of the lift power pack, rapid heating of the armored pendant cable, wisps of smoke, strong smell of burnt plastic.

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

Not applicable

**Identify the name and title of the knowledgeable representative of the supplier:** Stanton D. Saucier, PE, VP Marketing and Product Planning Ricon Corp.

**IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

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.**

On July 14, 2012, a bus operated by First Transit in Independence, Missouri, was involved in a thermal incident that resulted in the interior of the vehicle being severely damaged while the vehicle was in operation. The vehicle was a 2012 Ford F550/Glaval Entourage model bus bearing vehicle identification number (VIN) 1 FDGF5GY9CEB50858. Though the damage to the vehicle was extensive, no injuries were reported as a result. The manufacturer, Glaval, retained the services of ITC Experts (ITC) to investigate the incident and determine the cause of the fire, and an inspection took place on August 2, 2012, at the First Transit garage in Independence, Missouri. ITC's report was made available to Ricon on August 29, 2012. Upon review of the ITC report furnished by Glaval and completion of an internal investigation of the relevant documents, Ricon concluded that a defect was present on Friday, September 28, 2012.

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.**

Given the possible severity of the outcome, the action taken by Ricon is based solely on the single occurrence involving the Glaval bus in Independence, Missouri.



## 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 will provide instructions for managing the pendant cord and will supply a supplemental cover kit at no charge. It will be the responsibility of the lift owners to install the cover kit.

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

- a. The lifts power cord will have a new non-conducting cover.

**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.**

Same as recall remedy

## VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

9. Since only two wheelchairs lifts are being recalled phone contact was made with the owners. The owner contact information is current so a search of current state motor vehicle registration records will not be initiated.
10. The approximate date on which the owner notification will begin is July 8th 2013 and the approximate date on which the owner notification will be completed will be July 8th 2013
11. Dealer notification will not be initiated.

## VII. Furnish Recall Communications

12. **Furnish Recall Communications:** Attached for NHTSA review and approval.