

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**14V-610****Manufacturer Name :** Eldorado National- Kansas**Submission Date :** SEP 26,2014**NHTSA Recall No. :** 14V-610**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Eldorado National- Kansas

Address : 1655 Wall Street
Salina KS 67401

Company phone : (913) 392-2171

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 2,037

Estimated percentage with defect : 3

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2006-2014 Ford, Chevy Aerotech, Aerolite, Aero Elite, Transtech, Advantage

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : NR

Ford chassis includes E350, E450, E550.

Chevy chassis includes 3500, 4500.

Descriptive Information : All Product Models using a Ricon Public Use "S" 2000 and 5500 Series Lifts with platforms measuring 32 x 51 and 34 x 54 inches. The affected population is comprised of six (6) primary models numbers: S2005-xxxxx, S2010-00000, S5005-xxxxx, S5010-xxxxx, S5505-xxxxx, S5510-xxxxx.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2006 - SEP 26, 2014

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Ricon Recall 14E-041 reports, S-series model wheelchair lifts can exhibit cracking of the platform side plate while in the stowed position which, if left unchecked, can propagate to the point where separation of the rear portion of the side plate occurs rendering the lift potentially inoperable and possibly unsafe for the operator.

Description of the Safety Risk : Ricon Recall 14E-041 reports, in the event the aforementioned crack occurs on both sides of the platform, and is allowed to propagate to the point of material separation on both sides it is possible for the lift platform to lean against the vehicle lift door(s) and fall out of the vehicle when the door(s) is opened putting the lift operator at risk.
It is not believed that cracking of the platform side plate poses a safety hazard for lift occupants.

Description of the Cause : Ricon Recall 14E-041 reports, though the root cause is not known, analysis of failed components indicates the aforementioned cracks are the result of high load, low cycle fatigue occurring in the stowed position. Ricon believes that the excitation frequency found in vehicles of the type referenced above combined with a variety of other factors including but not necessarily limited to a drifting hydraulic system, a poorly adjusted or non-functional stow lock, bent vertical arms and/or a low hydraulic fluid level precipitate the conditions under which the lift side plates may crack.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Ricon Recall 14E-041 reports, cracks are visible and can be detected during routine checks outlined in the maintenance manual.

In the event separation occurs on one side of the platform, the platform will sag to one side increasing the likelihood that the issue will be perceived by the operator. Moreover, in the unlikely event that the operator does not notice the separation when the unit is deployed, the separated side will most likely not operate properly upon stow causing the unit to jam. In the event separation occurs on both sides and the lift platform leans outboard against the interlocked occupant restraint belt and will not deploy. In the event separation occurs on both sides and the lift platform leans outboard against the door, it will likely bounce against the door causing abnormal noise detectable by the driver.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Ricon Corporation, A Wabtec Subsidiary

Address : 1135 Aviation Place

San Fernando CA 91340

Country : US

Chronology :

Ricon Recall 14E-041 reports, on March 24, 2014, a Thomas Built, Conventional School bus built on a Freightliner C2 chassis and operated by First Student, Inc. in Independence, Baltimore, MD, experienced cracking on both sides of the platform as outlined above. The cracks went undetected such that they had propagated to the point of separation on both sides. Though neither damage to the vehicle nor injuries to passengers were reported, the vehicle operator reported that the lift platform had dropped against the door such that it would fall to the ground if the door were opened.

On May 7, 2014, the incident was reported to Ricon.

In mid May 2014, Ricon undertook an investigation into the aforementioned incident at First Student that involved the review of warranty claim data, informal interviews with Ricon field personnel and follow-up on alleged past incidents to verify pertinent data.

On June 23, an initial review of the findings led Ricon to publish a Service Bulletin outlining the subject issue and a proposed corrective action. Correspondingly, the investigation results and associated Service Bulletin were shared with NHTSA's Office of Defect Investigation.

On July 2, Ricon reopened its investigation of the matter.

On July 8, Ricon made the decision to file a Defect Report under 49 CFR Part 573.

On July 15, additional information became available to Ricon regarding the possible occurrence of cracks on lifts in vehicles built on chassis types previously understood to be unaffected by the aforementioned issue prompting Ricon to further investigate the matter.

On July 28, Ricon made the decision to revise its July 14th 573 filing to include the expansion of the potentially affected population.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Ricon Recall 14E-041 reports, Ricon will supply a supplemental platform support bumper kit at no charge. The bumpers are fitted to the upper parallel arms and engage the sides of the platform when it is fully stowed. By limiting the amplitude through which the platform is allowed to oscillate, the load transferred through the structure at the pivot plate is significantly reduced such that mechanism that precipitates the cracks cannot occur. Any platform wherein a crack has begun to propagate, Ricon will replace the platform.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Ricon Recall 14E-041 reports, any unit in the field that is not cracked is acceptable to use. The aforementioned bumper kit is recommended to ensure that the platform pivot plates do not crack in the future.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Ricon Recall 14E-041 reports, platforms on new construction will be made from higher strength steel and will not require the bumper kit.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : NR

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 31, 2014 - NOV 14, 2014

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 31, 2014 - NOV 14, 2014

* NR - Not Reported