

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**14V-651****Manufacturer Name :** Turtle Top**Submission Date :** OCT 16,2014**NHTSA Recall No. :** 14V-651**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Turtle Top

Address : 67819 State Road 15

New Paris IN 46553

Company phone : 574-831-4340

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 276

Estimated percentage with defect : 100

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2006-2014 Turtle Top Odyssey, Odyssey LT, Odyssey XL, Terra Transport, Van Terra

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Recalled vehicles are equipped with a Ricon S-series DOT public use platform (wheelchair) lift. NHTSA Equipment Recall Campaign Number 14E-041.

Production Dates : FEB 13, 2006 - AUG 28, 2014

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Under certain conditions present in some applications, the platforms included on the subject S-Series model wheelchair lifts can exhibit cracking of the platform pivot plate while in the stowed position which, if left unchecked, can propagate to the point where separation of the rear portion of the pivot plate occurs rendering the lift potentially inoperable and possibly unsafe for the operator.

Description of the Safety Risk : 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 lift doors and fall out of the vehicle when the doors are opened putting the lift operator at risk.

Description of the Cause : From Ricon's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: 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 : From Ricon's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: 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 inboard 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 CALIFORNIA 91340

Country : United States

Chronology :

July 8, 2014 Ricon made the decision to file a Defect Report under 49 CFR Part 573 based on incidents reported to Ricon and subsequent review of warranty claim data and interviews with Ricon field personnel.

July 15, 2014 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 issue prompting Ricon to investigate further.

July 28, 2014 Ricon made the decision to revise its July 14th 573 filing to include the expansion of the potentially affected population. (Reference NHTSA Equipment Recall Campaign Number 14E-041).

September 18, 2014 Turtle Top received Safety Recall Notice to OEM/Dealer from Ricon (dated September 12, 2014) in regards to the aforementioned issue and a hardcopy list with Ricon serial numbers of wheelchair lifts affected and sold to Turtle Top to install in Turtle Top buses. Based on information that Ricon provided Turtle Top, and with the aid of data query, purchasing records, Turtle Top's vehicle build records where the optional wheelchair lift equipment was ordered, along with manufacture dates, and dates affected recalled equipment was ordered and installed, Turtle Top was able to determine the vehicles affected under Ricon's recall by model name and model years. End user / ownership records were then queried to determine ownership of said vehicles.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : 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 platforms wherein a crack has begun to propagate, Ricon will replace the platform.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : From Ricon's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: Any unit (lift) 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 : From Ricon's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: Platforms on new construction will be made from higher strength steel and will not require the bumper kit.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : October 16, 2014: send 573 report to the NHTSA via recall portal for approval and for campaign number assignment.
October 16, 2014: send draft notification letter to the NHTSA via recall portal for review and approval.
Once draft notification letter is approved and the NHTSA assigns a vehicle recall campaign number, Turtle Top will be ready to mail notification letters to owners on record within 5 business days.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 27, 2014 - OCT 27, 2014

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 27, 2014 - NOV 03, 2014

* NR - Not Reported