

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**14V-595****Manufacturer Name :** Elkhart Coach**Submission Date :** SEP 25,2014**NHTSA Recall No. :** 14V-595**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Elkhart Coach

Address : 52807 Country Road 7
Elkhart IN 46514

Company phone : 574-264-5179

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 437

Estimated percentage with defect : 100

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2006-2014 Ford E350 & E450

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : This recall has to do with lift platforms that were put in our vehicles.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2006 - MAY 01, 2014

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Per Ricon Corporation Part 573 defect and Noncompliance Report 14E-041, under certain conditions, the platform included on the subject S-series wheelchair lifts can exhibit cracking of the platform pivot plate while in the stowed position.

Description of the Safety Risk : Per Ricon Corporation Part 573 defect and Noncompliance Report 14E-04; 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. It is possible for the platform to lean against the doors and fall out of the vehicle.

Description of the Cause : The root cause is not known. Analysis of failed components indicates cracks are the result of high load, low cycle fatigue occurring in the stowed position. Ricon believes that the excitation frequency in the vehicles with a variety of other factors are the conditions under which the lift side plates may crack.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Wheelchair lifts can exhibit cracking of the platform pivot plate while in the stowed position. Cracks are visible and can be detected during routine checks. In the event of separation on one side of the platform, the platform will sag to one side increasing the likelihood that the issue will be seen by the lift

operator. In the event that the separation occurs on both sides of the lift platform and the platform leans inward against the occupants restraint belt then the lift will not deploy. In the event that separation occurs on both sides and the lift platform leans outwards against the door it will likely bounce against the door making a noticeable noise.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Ricon Corporation, A Wabtec Subsidiary.

Address : 1135 Aviation Place

San Fernando CALIFORNIA 91340

Country : United States

Chronology :

March 24, 2014 - A THomas Built Conventional School bus operated by First Student, INX experienced cracking on both sides of the lift platform. The cracks went undetected and they had propagated to the point of separation on both sides of the platform. The vehicle operator reported that the lift platform had dropped against the door such that it would fall to the ground if the door was opened.

May 7, 2014 - The above incident was reported to Ricon.

Mid May, 2014 - Ricon launched an investigation into incident involving First Student bus.

June 23, 2014 - Initial review findings led Ricon to publish a Service Bulletin outlining the subject issue and a proposed corrective action. Investigation results and Service Bulletin were shared with NHTSA's Office of Defect Investigation.

July 2, 2014 - Ricon reopened its investigation.

July 8, 2014 - Ricon made decision to file a Defect Report under 49 CFR Part 573.

July 15, 2014 - Ricon discovered additional information of more occurrences of cracks on lifts prompting Ricon to further investigate the matter.

July 28, 2014 - Ricon revised its July 14th 573 filing to include the expansion of potentially affected population.

September 2, 2014 - Ricon completed a review of affected population.

September 5, 2014 - Ricon revised July 31st 573 filing to reflect the actual affected population.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Per Ricon Corporation Part 573 defect and Noncompliance Report 14E-041
Ricon will provide a field modification and all materials need to mitigate this

recall at no charge. This will include 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 the mechanism recipitates the cracks and cannot occur. It will be the responsibility of the lift owners to execute the mitigation.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Any unit in the field that is not cracked is acceptable to use. The bumper kit mentioned in the above section is recommended to ensure that the platform pivot plates do not crack in the future.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Platforms on new construction will be made from higher strength steel and will not require the bumper kit.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Ricon anticipates the recall campaign will be on July 25, 2014 with the notification of vehicle manufactures. Customers will be notified of their responsibilities in coordinating the campaign and making remedies to the recall population by the end of August.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 01, 2014 - DEC 31, 2014

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 01, 2014 - DEC 31, 2014

* NR - Not Reported