

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**16V-009****Manufacturer Name :** Turtle Top**Submission Date :** FEB 25, 2016**NHTSA Recall No. :** 16V-009**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 : 2008-2009 Turtle Top Odyssey LT

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Recalled vehicles are equipped with a Ricon S-series DOT public use platform (wheelchair) lift which may have enlarged knuckle arm pivot holes that can allow the bearings to move out of position which in turn renders the lift in-operable and possibly unsafe for the operator. NHTSA Equipment Recall Campaign Number 15E-068.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2008 - DEC 31, 2009

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2011-2011 Turtle Top Odyssey LT

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Recalled vehicles are equipped with a Ricon S-series DOT public use platform (wheelchair) lift which may have enlarged knuckle arm pivot holes that can allow the bearings to move out of position which in turn renders the lift in-operable and possibly unsafe for the operator. NHTSA Equipment Recall Campaign Number 15E-068.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2011 - DEC 31, 2011

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Recalled vehicles are equipped with a Ricon S-series DOT public use platform (wheelchair) lift which may have enlarged knuckle arm pivot holes that can allow the bearings to move out of position which in turn renders the lift in-operable and possibly unsafe for the operator. NHTSA Equipment Recall Campaign Number 15E-068.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2008 - DEC 31, 2008

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2012-2012 Turtle Top Terra Transport

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Recalled vehicles are equipped with a Ricon S-series DOT public use platform (wheelchair) lift which may have enlarged knuckle arm pivot holes that can allow the bearings to move out of position which in turn renders the lift in-operable and possibly unsafe for the operator. NHTSA Equipment Recall Campaign Number 15E-068.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2012 - DEC 31, 2012

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2007-2008 Turtle Top Van Terra

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Recalled vehicles are equipped with a Ricon S-series DOT public use platform (wheelchair) lift which may have enlarged knuckle arm pivot holes that can allow the bearings to move out of position which in turn renders the lift in-operable and possibly unsafe for the operator. NHTSA Equipment Recall Campaign Number 15E-068.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2007 - DEC 31, 2008

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : NR

End : NR

Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2013-2013 Turtle Top Van Terra

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Recalled vehicles are equipped with a Ricon S-series DOT public use platform (wheelchair) lift which may have enlarged knuckle arm pivot holes that can allow

the bearings to move out of position which in turn renders the lift in-operable and possibly unsafe for the operator. NHTSA Equipment Recall Campaign Number 15E-068.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2013 - DEC 31, 2013

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 potentially affected S-series model wheelchair lifts can exhibit cracking on the platform pivot plate while in the stowed position resulting from bent knuckle link arms and/or DU bearings that have fallen out of their holes in the Knuckle Link Arm due to oversized knuckle arm pivot holes. With the holes in the link arms in an oversized condition and left unchecked the bearings can move out of position which allows free play in the stowed platform. This free play allows for an increased load being applied to the platform mounting and can cause it to fail. Note that this same issue, showing evidence of the platform pivot plate cracking while in the stowed position on S-Series model wheelchair lifts, was reported under Ricon Equipment Recall number 14E-041. The remedy to install an elastomeric bumper bracket assembly under recall campaign 14E-041 was deemed to be inadequate leading Ricon to institute a second recall, 15E-068.

FMVSS 1 : 403 - Platform lift systems

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Once the bearings have moved out of position, the lift platform, when in the stowed position, may have excessive movement resulting in a failure of the platform mounting. This failure could cause the lift's platform to fall out of the vehicle when the wheelchair lift doors are opened, which could increase the risk of injury to the lift operator.

Description of the Cause : Ricon S-Series wheelchair lifts can exhibit bent knuckle link arms and/or DU bearings that have fallen out of their holes in the Knuckle Link Arm which unchecked can develop cracks in the left platform.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : From Ricon's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: If the bearing have moved out of position it is visible to inspection.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Ricon Corporation, A Wabtec Subsidiary

Address : 1135 Aviation Place

San Fernando CALIFORNIA 91340

Country : United States

Chronology :

See NHTSA Action Number RQ15002 Wheelchair lift platform failure investigation summary for details on why Ricon decided to conduct a second recall to address the newly discovered root cause. Ricon's remedy under equipment recall 14E-041 included the installation of a bumper kit to limit oscillation while the lift is in the stowed position. NHTSA opened a RQ when it was discovered that the lower pivot fatigue failures were continuing to occur on buses that had been remedied under 14E-041. Further investigation determined that the pivot bushing holes in the folding link arms were found to be larger than specifications thus allowing the bushing to withdraw and the lift to oscillate while stowed. The oscillation stressed the link arms near the pivot bushing hole causing them to crack. Since the remedy under recall 14E-041 was inadequate, Ricon decided to conduct a second recall, 15E-068. Turtle Top received documents from Ricon via certified mail bringing this second issue with Ricon S-Series lifts to Turtle Top's attention and the issuance of equipment recall 15E-068. Note that Turtle Top does not have any information on warranty claims or field or service reports on Ricon S-Series lifts outside of the notification mailing for 15E-068. Warranty claims, field reports, and service reports on Ricon's equipment would be recorded by Ricon. Ricon does not share such information on their lifts installed on Turtle Top buses with Turtle Top. Turtle Top has not recorded any consumer or customer complaints on this issue to date. The section revised 01-26-2016.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : From Ricon's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: The remedy program is to inspect the link arms for damage or if the bearings have moved out of position for any reason. Also, inspect the platform for any signs of cracking or failure. If damage to the link arm or the platform exists, replacement link arms and/or platform will be supplied at no cost.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : From Ricon's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: The remedy components are known to have the correct size holes for the installation of the bearings.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : From Ricon's Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report: The oversized condition was identified and corrected in production.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dependent on answers from Ricon and when NHTSA will assign a recall number.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 04, 2016 - MAR 11, 2016

* NR - Not Reported