Part 573 Safety Recall Report 17V-836

Manufacturer Name : Mobility Ventures LLC
Submission Date : DEC 20, 2017
NHTSA Recall No. : 17V-836
Manufacturer Recall No. : R1801

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Mobility Ventures LLC
Address : 105 N. Niles Ave.
South Bend IN 46617
Company phone : 877 681-3678

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 5,207
Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2011-2016 Mobility Ventures MV-1
Vehicle Type :
Body Style :
Power Train : NR
Descriptive Information : 2011 through 2016 model years represent the entire MV-1 population.
Production Dates : FEB 14, 2011 - AUG 24, 2015
VIN Range 1 : Begin : 523MF1168BM000035 End : 57WMD2C67GM100628 ☑ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Mobility Ventures has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in model year 2011–2016 MV-1 vehicles. In the affected vehicles, the front driver's side seat-height-adjustment assembly may become disengaged from the seat track under extreme rear impacts. During such rear impacts, it may also be possible for the driver's heel to contact and potentially release the fore/aft seat adjuster, possibly causing the seat to disengage with the seat track.

FMVSS 1 : NR
FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In the event of a severe rear impact, a portion of the driver's seat, i.e., the seat-height-adjustment assembly, may disengage from the seat track, resulting in unrestrained rearward motion of the occupant potentially increasing the risk of injury. Additionally, in the event of a severe rear impact, the driver's heel may contact and potentially release the fore/aft seat adjuster, causing the seat to disengage with the seat track, thereby increasing the risk of injury. Mobility is not aware of any reports of accident or injury related to this condition.

Description of the Cause : 1. The thickness of the steel "C"-channel used in the seat track, which retains

	the plastic bushings used in the height-adjustment assembly, is inadequate to retain the bushings under extremely high loads, allowing the front lower portion of the height-adjustment assembly to disengage from the seat track. 2. The seat fore-aft adjustment track lacks a mechanism to arrest movement upon inadvertent contact with the Towel Bar.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	None.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	GRA-MAG
Address :	470 East High Street London OHIO 43140
Country :	United States

Chronology :

- In September 2017, during the ordinary course of reviewing unrelated footage of pre-production FMVSS 301 Fuel System Integrity tests, an anomaly was noted in the driver's seat performance. Specifically, upon impact by the moving contoured barrier assembly, the driver's seat rotated backward toward the rear passenger compartment. The issue was flagged for further review and investigation because the design of the seats in the pre-production test vehicles was unknown.
- In late September 2017, Mobility Ventures Engineering began an internal investigation to determine whether the observed seat rotation could be duplicated in the seats of production vehicles and under what, if any, circumstances.
- In October 2017, Mobility Ventures Engineering contacted GRA-MAG, the supplier of the MV-1 seats, for input on possible failure modes. That inquiry yielded no information.
- In late November to early December 2017, Mobility Ventures Engineering conducted sled testing with production seats to determine if a potential safety-related defect could be replicated with the actual seat configuration. During that testing, an additional anomaly was observed, in which the test dummy's heel contacted and released the fore/aft seat adjuster lever ("the Towel Bar"), causing the seat to slide rearward and disengage with the seat track.
- On December 7, 2017, Mobility Ventures Engineering completed its review of the investigation and test data. On December 15, 2017, Mobility Ventures determined that the seat anomaly noted in the pre-production FMVSS 301 test is present in the design of seats used in production and decided to conduct a safety recall for this condition.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle to a Mobility authorized dealer to have a seat track reinforcement kit installed. The company is actively developing a kit of components that will address the subject conditions. There will be no charge to customers for the installation of these components.Mobility is excluding reimbursement for costs because the original warranty program provides for a free repair for these concerns and because no field issues have been reported. Mobility will forward a copy of the service repair procedure, dealer and owner notification letters to the Agency when developed.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	The seat track reinforcement kit is installed over the existing seat track and adds the necessary structural reinforcement to prevent the seat-height-adjustment assembly from disengaging during severe rear impacts. Mobility Ventures will provide updates on the development of a countermeasure for the Towel Bar anomaly, which will include a mechanical device limiting rearward motion of the seat adjuster.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	Not applicable. Mobility stopped manufacturing the MV-1 in the 2016 model year that is covered by this campaign.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	Notification to dealers is expected to occur on February 12, 2018. Mailing of owner notification letters is expected to begin February 14, 2018 and is expected to be completed by February 18, 2018. An initial shipment of the recall service components will occur on February 19, 2018. All recall kit components will be available on March 5, 2018.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	FEB 12, 2018 - FEB 13, 2018
Planned Owner Notification Date :	FEB 14, 2018 - FEB 18, 2018

* NR - Not Reported