



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 16, 2018

Ms. Elaine Haschel
Braun Corporation
631 W 11th St.
Winamac, IN 46996

NEF-150MR
18V-489

Subject: Loss of Stability Control Function

Dear Ms. Haschel:

This letter serves to acknowledge Braun Corporation's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

BRAUNABILITY/DODGE WHEELCHAIR VAN/2017-2018

Mfr's Report Date: July 20, 2018

NHTSA Campaign Number: 18V-489

Components:

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL
SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC

Potential Number of Units Affected: 165

Problem Description:

Braun Corporation (Braun) is recalling certain 2017-2018 BraunAbility Dodge Companion Vans with a manual in-floor wheelchair ramp built on Dodge RT minivan chassis. The brake lines may not be connected to the corresponding ports on the hydraulic control unit, causing reduced performance of the electronic stability control (ESC) system. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 135, "Light Vehicle Brake Systems," and 126, "Electronic Stability Control Systems."

Consequence:

A reduction of ESC function can increase the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Braun will notify owners, and dealers will reroute the right rear brake line to the left wheel, and install a brake line extension to reroute the left rear brake line to the right rear wheel. This repair will be completed free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in August 2018. Owners may contact Braun customer service at 1-800-488-0359.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Braun's 573 does not effectively explain the cause of the problem. Please file a 573 amendment to clarify what caused these vehicles to be noncompliant.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement