



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 5, 2020

Mr. Steve Merkle
Compliance Engineer
Braun Ambulances
1170 Production Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

NEF-150MR
20V-316

Subject: Brake Line Routing May Cause Wear and Fluid Leak

Dear Mr. Merkle:

This letter serves to acknowledge Braun Ambulances'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:

BRAUN AMBULANCES/CHIEF XL TYPE I/2019
BRAUN AMBULANCES/LIBERTY/2019

Mfr's Report Date: May 29, 2020

NHTSA Campaign Number: 20V-316

Components:

SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC
SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC:FOUNDATION COMPONENTS:HOSES, LINES/PIPING, AND FITTINGS
SUSPENSION:REAR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 10

Problem Description:

Braun Ambulances (Braun) is recalling certain 2019 Chief XL Type I and Liberty ambulances built on Ram 4500 or 5500 chassis equipped with Compressible Liquid Adaptive Suspension Systems (C.L.A.S.S.), part numbers DS135RS3A, DS135RS3AF, DS135RS3-DM. The rear brake caliper flexible line may have been routed so that it contacts a suspension component, possibly causing excessive wear and a loss of rear brakes. The affected system component is the rear brake caliper flexible line which may be causing brake caliper to wear due to contact suspension components.

Consequence:

A worn rear brake caliper flexible line may cause brake fluid leakage which may result in a partial or complete loss of the rear brakes, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Braun will notify owners and dealers will replace the rear brake caliper flexible lines and hardware, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in June 2020. Owners may contact Braun at 1-877-344-9990.

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.

We have received Braun's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

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. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joshua Neff
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement