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By Recall Management Division at 1:15 pm, Nov 30, 2012



November 29, 2012

Nancy Lewis (NVS-215)
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Vehicle Recall: **Medtec Squad Bench Seat Hinge**
Medtec Recall Number – 74B238M

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Medtec has determined that a potential safety issue exists with the squad bench seat hinge attachment in certain Medtec manufactured ambulances as listed below. We therefore furnish notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1. Name of Manufacturer and Corporate contact:

Medtec Ambulance Corporation
Rob Wilkey, Chief Engineer
Phone: 941-527-4124
Cell: 941-465-9357
E-Mail: rwilkey@medtecambulance.com

2. Identification of Vehicle Classification:

Make: Medtec
Model Years Involved: 2009, 2010 and 2011
Models: Type I, Type I-AD, Type II, Type III, and Type III-AD
Mfg. Date Beginning: 01/02/2009
Mfg. Date Ending: 05/01/2011

3. Number of Potentially Affected Vehicles: 996

4. Estimated Percentage of Vehicles Containing the Defect or Noncompliance: 98%

5. Description of the defect or noncompliance: The squad seat bench top is attached to the bench with a piano style hinge that is fastened with self-threading screws. In two incidents it has been indicated that if an ambulance attendant is not seated and belted and they are standing near the bench and the vehicle hits a bump sufficiently hard to throw the attendant into the air and the attendant lands on the bench seat top with great force, then the wood screws can pull out of the bench top allowing it to drop into the cavity of the bench compartment.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

- December 12, 2010 - Initial incident with a City of New Orleans Medtec ambulance
- January-February 2011 - Repairs made to City of New Orleans Medtec ambulances by Medtec dealer
- February 2, 2011 - Warranty report received from dealer for fixing the New Orleans units
- January 20, 2012 - PE 11-041 opened.
- January 2012 - Squad bench top load testing was performed.. This testing confirmed that the bench seat top could carry two seated attendants with a safety factor greater than 3 to 1.
- March 2012 - Wood screw pull-out testing was performed. Test results show that each wood screw can hold the expected load from seated and belted occupants.
- November 5, 2012 - 2nd incident of a squad bench seat top hinge screws pulling out as a result of a standing attendant being thrown hard on the top while the vehicle was responding to an emergency call.
- November 9-13, 2012 - Additional testing performed to simulate an attendant being thrown onto the bench top from the maximum height possible inside an ambulance. This testing showed that it is possible for a non-seated attendant to be thrown onto the bench seat hard enough to cause the wood screws to pull out and the bench top to drop into the compartment cavity.
- November 29, 2012 - Pierce/Medtec Safety committee decided to submit a voluntary safety recall defect report.

7. Corrective Action: To Be Determined.

8. Representative Notices: Notices will be sent at a later date.

Sincerely,
Medtec Ambulance Corporation



Rob Wilkey
Chief Engineer