

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Equipment
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report

On March 21st, The Braun Corporation decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicle equipment listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: **March 22, 2013**

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall: **N/A**

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164:

The Braun Corporation

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, who the agency should contact with respect to this recall:

Rick Nelson
Director of Product Support

Telephone Number: **1-800-946-7513 Extension 3272**

Fax Number: **574-946-3143**

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report:

Barry Wolff
Director of Risk Management

Signed: _____

I. Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment

2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall, *for each make and model or applicable item of equipment product line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the item of equipment), provide:*

Generic name of the item: **Track bar mount assembly**

Dates of manufacture: **December 20, 2012 to March 21, 2013**

Make: **Vision** Model: **Rear Entry Chrysler/Dodge mobility conversion**

Part Number(s): **VPM13136 Axle track bar mount assembly** Size: **N/A**

Function: **Affixes the body to the rear axle to stabilize the ride**

Other information which characterizes/distinguishes the items of equipment to be recalled: **N/A**

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents: **100 percent.**

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Items Potentially Involved</u>
Braun Vision Rear Entry	2008-2013	62 vehicles

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: **62 vehicles**

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: **10%**

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined—in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled items of equipment:

On March 11th and 12th, Braun received two separate reports of broken track bar mount assemblies. Braun began an immediate investigation to determine a root cause. It was determined that the subject broken track bar mount assemblies were missing welds. Later it was determined that a personnel change at a vendor had caused the assemblies to be insufficiently welded. According to its vendor, the personnel change occurred after Braun received a September part shipment and prior to Braun's receipt of the next batch of parts on December 20, 2012. Thus, the December 20th date constituted the beginning date of the recalled items. The end date was determined based on the 2 field reports of broken track bar mount assemblies when Braun halted production and began its investigation.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The defect occurs when the track bar mount assembly is insufficiently welded. Specifically, one or more welds are missing.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

A change in welding personnel combined with the lack of 100% post-welding inspection.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The track bar mount assembly may fracture and permit the OEM track bar to separate from the rear axle. The track bar may then drag the ground, make noise, and alter vehicle ride performance. The ride performance will manifest as excessive rear end body roll when making abrupt steering inputs.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

We are not aware of any at this time.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

**Vickers Engineering, Inc.
3604 Glendora Road
New Troy, MI 49119**

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Brian Noland, Fabrication Division Manager

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

On March 11th and 12th, Braun received two separate reports of broken track bar mount assemblies. These instances were remedied in-field pursuant to warranty provisions. There have been no reports of accidents, injuries, fatalities.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

N/A

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or non-compliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

The remedy will include the inspection of the affected vehicles. Vehicles found to have missing welds on the affected part will be remedied by adding welds, or replacing the entire track bar mounting assembly with a new assembly, if additional welds cannot be made due to component proximity.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly:

The remedy track bar mount assembly will have additional welds. Track bar mount assemblies requiring the remedy, will be missing certain welds identified in the recall service bulletin.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

The recall condition was corrected in production on March 13, 2013. This took the form correcting track bar mount assemblies by adding the appropriated welds. The production remedy is identical to the recall remedy.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

The Braun Corporation anticipates the recall campaign will begin during the week of March 25, 2013. At that time, selling Dealers will be notified of their responsibilities in coordinating the campaign. Also, end users will begin to be notified regarding the recall. We do not anticipate any problems implementing the recall.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

See the attached proposed recall communications.