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By Recall Management Division at 9:58 am, Jun 21, 2013

13V-253  
(4 pages)

June 21, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attention: Recall Management Division, NVS-215  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Armored pendant cable  
Reference: Ricon S & K-series Public Use Platform Lifts

Dear Madam:

On June 21, 2013, Elkhart Coach, A Division of Forest River decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in items of 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.

This report was prepared on 06/21/13.

1. The full name of the fabricating manufacturer is:

Elkhart Coach  
A Division of Forest River

The corporate official who prepared this report and whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall is the undersigned, and may be reached at the address and telephone and fax numbers listed in the letterhead

Respectfully Submitted,



Tanya Brooks  
Quality Manager  
Elkhart Coach  
52807 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN 46514

Enclosure: Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report – Ricon Armored Pendant Cable

## **Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**

### **I and II - Identify the Recalled Items of Equipment and the Recall Population**

**2. Identify the Items of Equipment Involved in this Recall:**

**Make:** Elkhart Coach

**Model Years Involved:** 2006 – 2012

**Production Dates: Beginning** 8/2006 **Ending:** 9/2012

**VIN Range: Beginning:** Unknown at this time **Ending:** Unknown at this time

**Vehicle Type:** Ford Cutaway **Body Style:** Shuttle Bus

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

This recall involves Elkhart Coach models produced from 11/2006 through 7/2012. This recall involves the Elkhart Coach shuttle bus products which installed Ricon S & K series wheelchair lifts that were equipped with the optional armored cord on the hand held control pendant.

3. **Identify the Recall Population:** All vehicles equipped with the aforementioned wheelchair lift models manufactured after August 1, 2006. The total number of vehicles being recalled is not yet known. Number of vehicles potentially involved: 58.
4. **Approximate percentage of total wheelchair lifts estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:**  
100% of the aforementioned Elkhart Coach Ricon lift equipped shuttle buses that include the Ricon model numbers aforementioned and include the optional armored cord on the hand held control pendant manufactured during the referenced period.

### **III. Describe the Defect**

5. **Describe the defect:**

The affected lifts are equipped with a hand held pendant control whereupon the cord is protected by a flexible, steel conduit (an armored pendant cable) and an external power lug at the base of the hydraulic pump.

**Describe the cause(s) of the defect:**

In the event that the armored pendant cable is not managed to be kept clear of the wheelchair lift and the protective, elastomeric cover is either omitted or improperly installed.

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect:**

If the armored pendant cable may contact the power lug resulting in a high current short circuit and the possibility of fire.

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

None or sparks at the base of the lift power pack, rapid heating of the armored pendant cable, wisps of smoke, strong smell of burnt plastic.

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

Ricon Corporation  
A Wabtec Company  
7900 Nelson Road  
Panorama City, CA 91402

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

Stanton D. Saucier, PE  
Vice President – Marketing and Product Planning

#### **IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

- 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.**
- 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.** Testing was performed by Ricon Corp and an investigation followed, submitted part 573 report Ref. 13E-001.

#### **V. Identify the Remedy**

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

Ricon will provide instructions for managing the pendant cord and will supply a supplemental cover kit at no charge. It will be the responsibility of the lift owners to install the cover kit.

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

- a. The lifts power cord will have a new non-conducting cover.

**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.**

Same as recall remedy

## **VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

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

Elkhart Coach is working with Ricon on determining which vehicles received the recalled lifts.

## **VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

### **9. Furnish Recall Communications:**

Attached for NHTSA review and approval.