

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19V-546

Manufacturer Name : Braun Corporation

Submission Date : JUL 24, 2019

NHTSA Recall No. : 19V-546

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Braun Corporation

Address : 631 West 11 Street

Winamac IN 46996

Company phone : 574-946-6153

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 256

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2016-2019 Ford Explorer BraunAbility MXV wheelchair accessible conversion

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : The recall population was determined to be those MXV Wheelchair Accessible Conversions (WAV's) having the Tilt & Go front driver/passenger seat design. The Tilt & Go design incorporates a switch activated electric solenoid to release the rear seat base latches from the floor-mounted strikers so the seat may tilt forward to permit additional cabin space for wheelchair maneuverability. The recalled products include only those vehicles having the Tilt & Go seat component to include an electric solenoid for seat base latch operation. The number of affected vehicles is 256.

Production Dates : DEC 11, 2017 - JUN 07, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The switch activated electric solenoid utilized to release the rear seat base latches from the floor-mounted strikers may become inadvertently switched on, and held in the on position. This causes constant current to be supplied to the non-fused electric solenoid and may cause the wire leads to overheat, the wiring insulation to melt, and an electrical short could occur. This overheating/melting/short could cause a fire.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Should the switch be held in the on position for an extended duration there is an increased risk of electrical fire.

Description of the Cause : The cause of the defect is that the electrical circuit which operates the solenoid is unprotected from electrical fault or inadvertent switch operation.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The defect may occur without warning.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR
Address : NR
Country : NR

Chronology :

The first reported incident of melted wire insulation occurred in August 2018, and was believed to be user error. During November 2018, two additional reports of melted wire insulation were made. In April 2019, another report lead to BraunAbility bringing the incident vehicle back to its engineering lab for evaluation. During May/June of 2019, engineering evaluation prompted a design change to incorporate a solenoid timer to de-power the solenoid should its switch be activated for a prolonged period. The solenoid timer was released to mobility dealers as an upfit on July 3, 2019. On July 15, 2019 BraunAbility received a report of fire underneath an MXV WAV passenger seat. On July 18, 2019 BraunAbility made the decision to recall.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The remedy is to issue a notice of Stop Sale of MXV WAV conversions in the possession of mobility dealers. Additionally, BraunAbility will notify dealers and customers of the recall and provide the remedy free-of-charge.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy will be to add timer components to the solenoid circuits on all affected vehicles. Vehicles lacking the timers are the affected vehicles.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : The condition was corrected in production on June 25, 2019 when the solenoid timer was implemented into all MXV WAV's.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : The remedy components and instruction are available. The recall can commence upon NHTSA approval of the owner notification documents.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

* NR - Not Reported