



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

February 24, 2020

Mr. David Klopp  
Freedman Seating Company  
4545 W. Augusta Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60651

NEF-150KL  
20E-004

**Subject:** Improperly Assembled Retractor/FMVSS 209

Dear Mr. Klopp:

This letter serves to acknowledge Freedman Seating Company'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:**

FREEDMAN/GO-ES FOLDAWAY SEAT/9999

**Mfr's Report Date:** February 6, 2020

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 20E-004

**Components:**

SEAT BELTS:FRONT:RETRACTOR

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 2,500

**Problem Description:**

Freedman Seating Company (Freedman) is recalling certain 2pl GO-ES 3pt Foldaway Seat Assemblies, part numbers 43705, 45467, 26400, and 26401. The seat belt retractor block out zone may have not been set correctly, potentially resulting in a seat belt that may not properly secure the occupant. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) number 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies."

**Consequence:**

An unsecured occupant has an increased risk of injury in the event of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Freedman will notify the vehicle manufacturers that purchased the seats, and dealers for those companies will replace the retractors, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Freedman customer service at 1-800-443-4540.

**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](http://www.safercar.gov).

NHTSA is missing critical, required information for this safety recall. This information must be supplied through the NHTSA Recalls Portal within 5 working days of confirming its accuracy:

- Your company must supply the estimated date(s) for which it will notify the affected vehicle manufacturers regarding this safety recall. If your company subsequently becomes aware that either the beginning or the completion dates reported to the agency for any of the notifications will be delayed by more than two weeks, your company shall promptly advise the agency of the delay and the reasons therefore, and furnish a revised estimate (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(8)(ii)).

- Your company must supply the estimated date(s) for which it will notify dealers and/or distributors regarding this safety recall. If your company subsequently becomes aware that either the beginning or the completion dates reported to the agency for any of the notifications will be delayed by more than two weeks, your company shall promptly advise the agency of the delay and the reasons therefore, and furnish a revised estimate. (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(8)(ii)).

- Please provide a list of the vehicle manufacturers that purchased the affected seats.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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 Kristin Lepper who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, or by email at [kristin.lepper@dot.gov](mailto:kristin.lepper@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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