



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 10, 2020

Mr. Steve Merkle  
Compliance Engineer  
Braun Ambulances  
1170 Production Drive  
Van Wert, OH 45891

NEF-150MR  
20V-661

**Subject:** Side Facing Seatbelt Anchored Improperly

Dear Mr. Merkle:

This letter serves to acknowledge Braun Ambulances'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:**

DEMERS AMBULANCES/EXE/2017-2020  
DEMERS AMBULANCES/TSE/2017-2020

**Mfr's Report Date:** October 27, 2020

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 20V-661

**Components:**

SEAT BELTS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 291

**Problem Description:**

Braun Ambulances (Braun) is recalling certain 2017-2020 Demers TSE and EXE Ambulances for a problem with the seat belt system installed in the rear medical module of the ambulance at the side-facing bench seating positions. Continued use of affected upper seat belt harness may result in a partial or complete separation from its mounting.

**Consequence:**

Separation of the upper harness may increase the risk of injury to the occupant in the event of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Braun Ambulances will notify owners, and dealers will remove and reinstall the harness mounting bolts with a modified configuration, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in November 2020. Owners may contact Braun Ambulances customer service at 1-877-344-9990.

**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).

We have received Braun's proposed owner notification letter and have approved it for distribution.



Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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 Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at michelle.rice@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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