



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

AUG - 5 2005

MR. LUC GUILLEMETTE
SERVICE & WARRANTY MANAGER
GIRARDIN MINIBUS INC.
TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY
DRUMMONDVILLE, QUEBEC 00 J2B 6V4

NVS-215kjs
05V-352

Subject: STOP ARM MALFUNCTIONS

Dear MR. GUILLEMETTE:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information will be made accessible to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years: (ADDITIONAL YEAR/MODELS TO BE PROVIDED)
GIRARDIN/MB II/2002
GIRARDIN/MB IV/2002

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-352

Recall Date: August 03, 2005

Components:
OTHER:SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: TBD

Summary:
CERTAIN GIRARDIN 2002 THROUGH (TBD) MODEL YEAR MB II & MB IV SCHOOL BUSES EQUIPPED WITH "5" SERIES STOP ARMS MANUFACTURED BY SPECIALTY MANUFACTURING COMPANY. IN EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER, THE MICROSWITCHES USED INTERNALLY TO POSITION THE SIGN IN THE OPEN AND CLOSED POSITIONS MAY MALFUNCTION, CAUSING THE SIGN TO OPEN OR CLOSE IN AN IMPROPER POSITION, OR TO NOT OPEN AT ALL.

Consequence:

SHOULD THE STOP ARM NOT PERFORM PROPERLY, A CHILD OR PEDESTRIAN MAY BE ENDANGERED BY PASSING VEHICLES SHOULD THE MOTORIST NOT STOP AT THE CORRECT LOCATION.

Remedy:

GIRARDIN WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPLACE THE ORIGINAL SWITCH WITH A SWITCH PACK THAT IS NOT SENSITIVE TO EXTREME COLD WEATHER AND WILL INSPECT TO ENSURE THE MICROSWITCH HEATER WIRING IS PROPERLY CONNECTED FREE OF CHARGE. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED THE AGENCY WITH A NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE.

Notes:

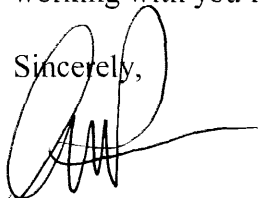
GIRARDIN RECALL NUMBER 05-010-SAS. CUSTOMERS CAN CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Effective October 21, 2004, a manufacturer must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date including the month, day, and year when submitting a defect/noncompliance information report (Part 573.6).

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 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).

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227 or by email at KSCHULER@NHTSA.DOT.GOV. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement