

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

On January 5th, 2005, Girardin Minibus [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No.) exits in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 **Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports**.

Date this report was prepared: January 21st, 2005 and completed on February 18, 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 05-008-BBX

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Girardin Minibus, Inc.

Trans-Canada Highway, Drummondville, Quebec, J2B 6V4

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Luc Guillemette

Service & Warranty manager

Telephone Number: 819-477-8222 ext. 455 Fax No.: 819-477-1848

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Luc Guillemette

Service & Warranty manager

Signed: _____

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¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Girardin **Model Years Involved:** 2004-2005

Model(s): MB II & MB IV on Ford Diesel

Production Dates: Beginning: May 14th, 2004 **Ending:** February 9, 2005

VIN Range: Beginning: ----- **Ending:** -----

Vehicle Type: Ford E350 & E450 Diesel **Bodystyle:** School Bus

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

These vehicles have a battery box door on the passenger's side.

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

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

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

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

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

100% of the MB II & MB IV on Ford Diesel chassis 2004 & 2005 equipped with the option BBX (battery box).

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
<u>MB II Ford Diesel</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>55</u>
<u>MB II Ford Diesel</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>MB IV Ford Diesel</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>MB IV Ford Diesel</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>06</u>

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

121

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

The recall population of the minibuses affected by this recall is Ford chassis (diesel) with the Option BBX (battery box) which included the electrical cables P/N 27DF01 or 27DF3001. All the minibuses with these parts have been manufactured between May 14th, 2004 and February 9, 2005.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The electrical cable between the batteries and the battery junction box (under the hood) has no fusible link for cable protection. (See the recall repair procedure for details).

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The electrical cable has been made without fusible link.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

There is no protection on electrical cable and if there is a short circuit it may possibly result in a fire.

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

None

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

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

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

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.

On January 5th, 2005, the engineering department realized that they forgot to include a fusible link on the electrical cables P/N 27DF01 and 27DF3001 used with the option BBX (battery box).

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.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

The reimbursing procedure will be included on the notification letter we will supply to the owners.

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

Install a fusible link at the end of the cable attached to the battery. The electrical cable will then be protected.

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

The fusible link is blue and is covered with a white rubber sleeve. See the pictures in the recall repair procedure. The recall cables have no white rubber sleeve at the end attached to the battery.

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.

The new electrical cables (P/N: 27DF01-Rev.E and P/N 27DF3001-Rev.B) made with a fusible link will be installed on the production line by February 10, 2005. The new electrical cables and the repair cables will almost look the same except that the fusible link will be soldered on the new cables and attached with screw splice on the repair cables (see the pictures of the screw splice in the recall repair procedure). The fusible link on the new cables and on the repair cables will both be covered with a white rubber sleeve, they will visually look the same.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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

We will mail a letter to the owners (dealers or end users) of all the minibuses affected by this recall by the end of February 2005. The parts needed and the recall replacement procedure will be shipped free of charge to all the owners of the minibuses as soon as we have located them. The labor will be reimbursed.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

You will find enclosed a draft copy of the notification letter & the recall procedure.

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.