Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports**[1]

**On** March 31, 2005, Girardin Minibus **decided that a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No.** 222 **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:** April 6, 2005

**Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):** 05-009-CRA

**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:** 2003-2004-2005

**Model(s):** MB II & MB IV on Ford & GM

**Production Dates: Beginning:** October 23, 2003 **Ending:** December 16, 2004

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

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

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**
These vehicles have seats with child seat anchorages.

**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 & GM chassis 2003, 2004 & 2005 equipped with options CRA-30LB, CRA-30RB, CRA-34L, CRA-34LB, CRA-34R, CRA-34RB, CRA-39L, CRA-39LB, CRA-39R (child restraint anchorage).

## II. Identify the Recall Population

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

| Model | Year | Number of Potentially Involved Vehicles |
|---|---|---|
| MB II Ford Diesel | 2003 | 7 |
| MB II Ford Diesel | 2004 | 51 |
| MB II Ford Diesel | 2005 | 27 |
| MB II Ford Gas | 2005 | 1 |
| MB IV Ford Diesel | 2003 | 5 |
| MB IV Ford Diesel | 2004 | 5 |
| MB II GM gas | 2003 | 81 |
| MB II GM gas | 2004 | 9 |
| MB II GM gas | 2005 | 5 |
| MB IV GM gas | 2004 | 3 |

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:**
194

**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 & GM chassis (gas & diesel) with options CRA-30LB, CRA-30RB, CRA-34L, CRA-34LB, CRA-34R, CRA-34RB, CRA-39L, CRA-39LB, CRA-39R (child restraint anchorage) which included the child seat anchorages P/N 50A630-L, 50A630-R, 50A634-L, 50A634-R, 50A639-L, 50A639-R. All the minibuses with these parts have been manufactured between October 23, 2003 and December 16, 2004.

## 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 seat back on the seats equipped with child restraint anchorage may not resist to rear static load test, re. FMVSS 222.

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

The installation of the child restraint anchorage requires modifications to the seat that affect performance of the seats in the rear static load tests.

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

The seat back may not absorb enough energy in the case of forward impact.

**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.**

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

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## 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.**

**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.**

After Mr. John Finneran from NHTSA informed us that one of our seats did not pass a test (re. FMVSS 222) we made our own tests and found a way to reinforce the seats to meet FMVSS 222 (results to be supplied).

## 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 flat bar on each side of the seat where the child seat anchorage is bolted to increase the strength of the seat back (see recall procedure for details "to be supplied").

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

The reinforced seats have a flat bar on each side where the child seat anchorage is bolted to the seat.

**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 last seat we installed with this option was in December 2004. We do not produce these seats anymore.

## 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 a date to be confirmed. 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.***

We will supply a draft copy of the notification letter as soon as possible.

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