

# MID BUS

505 East Jefferson Street  
Bluffton, Ohio 45817-1398

Phone (419) 358-2500  
Fax (419) 358-2400

OSV-292

RECEIVED  
2005  
AUG 24 11:47 AM  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attn: Kelly Schuler, Safety Defect Analyst  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590  
Fax: 202-366-7882

August 24, 2005

Kelly Schuler,

Please find the following REVISED 573 form and the documentation regarding the Specialty Manufacturing Recall. This 573 form is for the Specialty Manufacturing Recall on their "5" Series Stop Arms. We revised it, per our discussions. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

I will be out of the office on Friday 8-26 through Wednesday August 31, so you can e-mail or call my cell @ 419-615-7301. Penny will be available while I am out.

Please confirm that you received this information.

Tony Augsburger  
National Sales Manager, Mid Bus Inc.

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report<sup>3</sup>**

On June 16 2005, Mid Bus Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. \_\_\_\_\_) exists 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 Reports.

Date this report was prepared: August 24, 2005 Revised from June 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): N/A

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.

Mid Bus Inc.

Bluffton, OH

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

Penny Dukes

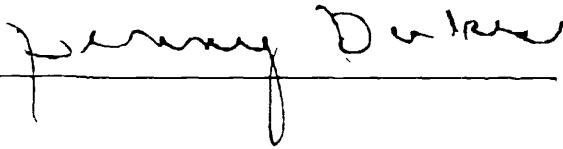
Warranty Administration

Telephone Number: 419-358-2500 Fax No.: 419-358-2400

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Penny Dukes

Warranty Administrator

Signed: 

<sup>3</sup>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 Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 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): Guide/Guide XL<sup>SC</sup> Model Years Involved: 2002-05 Model(s): GM/Ford/International

Production Dates: Beginning: 1/2002 Ending: 4/2005

VIN Range: Beginning: See Attached Ending: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Type: School Bus Bodystyle: Single Wheel and Dual Wheel

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

Buses in the recall have Specialty Mfg. "5" Series Stop Arms.

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.** \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

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

<b>Model</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</b>
DW Guide	2002-2005	2,385
SW Guide	2002-2005	209
Guide XL	2002-2005	91
SC	2002-2005	21
Total Potential		2,706

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 2,706

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

**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:**

All school buses with Specialty Mfg. "5" Series Stop Arms. Manufactured completion from January 7, 2002 through April 30, 2005. Specialty Mfg. has serial numbers.

**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 non-compliance involves school buses manufactured between January 7, 2002 and April 30, 2005. Only those units with Specialty Mfg. Model "5" Series Stop Arms are involved. Serial between #480380 and 627609. We will send out one letter showing the 2 different regions. States included as a recall update and states that may not be affected, per Specialty Mfg. list. (See attached list.)

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

In extreme cold weather under certain conditions, the microswitches used internally to position the sign in the open or closed positions may malfunction causing the sign to open or close to an improper position, or to not open at all. Also, it has been determined that the heater section may not be wired in the proper manner causing it not to operate.

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

A malfunction causing the sign to open or close to an improper position or to not open at all. The heater may not operate on the stop arm.

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

No warning will occur.

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

Specialty Manufacturing Company

10200 Pineville Road

Pineville, NC 28134

Phone: 704-889-7518 Fax: 704-889-2700

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

Eric D. Swanger, PE Engineering Manager

**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. See attached letter from Specialty Mfg.

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.

June 8, 2005 - Letter sent by Specialty Mfg.

June 14, 2005 - Letter received at Mid Bus

June 16, 2005 - Mid Bus runs population report

June 16, 2005 - Mid Bus files 573 form to notify NHTSA

August 24, 2005 - Mid Bus revises 573 Form, per NHTSA suggestion

**V. Identify the Remedy**

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

Specialty Mfg. will send out service kits to end customer and will  
compensate for expenses.

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

Service kits from Specialty Mfg. is Part No. 005178. New heater switch  
pack, mounting hardware, installation instructions, service completion  
card.

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.

See attached letter from Specialty Mfg.

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#### VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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.

2005

June & July - Build data base of units involved

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Sept/Oct - Begin mailing letters to customers/dealers

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Oct/Nov - Ship kits based on availability of kits from Specialty Mfg.

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#### VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. 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.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

Dear Mid Bus Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Based on information submitted to by Specialty Manufacturing, Mid Bus, Inc. has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2002 through 2005 Model Year Guide DW, Guide SW, Guide XL, and SC school buses manufactured between January 7, 2002 and April 30, 2005, equipped with "5" series stop arms manufactured by Specialty Manufacturing Company of Pineville, North Carolina. The stop arm may not function when subjected to very cold operating conditions. According to our records you own buses covered by this recall.

**Reason for Recall**

In certain areas of the country during extremely cold weather under certain conditions, the micro switches used internally to position the sign in the open and closed positions may temporarily malfunction, causing the stop arm to open or close to an improper position, or to not open at all. Also, it has been determined that the heater section of the switch pack may not be connected in the proper manner.

**States where these temperatures and conditions can occur in the winter include:**

Alaska	Minnesota	Vermont
Colorado	Missouri	Virginia
Connecticut	Montana	Washington
Delaware	New Hampshire	West Virginia
Iowa	New Mexico	Wisconsin
Idaho	Nevada	Wyoming
Illinois	New Jersey	Nebraska
Indiana	New York	North Dakota
Kansas	Ohio	Tennessee
Kentucky	Oregon	District of Columbia
Maine	Pennsylvania	
Maryland	Rhode Island	
Massachusetts	South Dakota	
Michigan	Utah	

If your Specialty Manufacturing equipped school bus is not in service in one of these states you may still obtain the free remedy upon request. If your school bus is to be driven in cold weather you should obtain the free remedy prior to the trip.

**What Will Be Done.** Specialty Manufacturing has determined that stop arms with serial numbers between 480380 and 627609 contain the defect that this recall intends to remedy. The stop arm will have it's switch pack replaced with components that will work down to -20F. The details of the service campaign are attached under Specialty's letterhead.

**What you should do:** Please check the serial number's of your buses stop arms. If they fall in the target range, follow the directions supplied by Specialty Manufacturing. If your stop arms aren't in the range of serial numbers, please mark the attached post card with your VIN or VIN's and check the box for no action necessary. If you live in the states listed as not requiring service, you can mark the card with VIN's and check no service necessary. If you live in the states listed as cold environment, you should contact Specialty Manufacturing to receive service parts and instructions. Reimbursement for reasonable installation charges will take place after the self addressed stamp paid service registration has been filled out and returned to Specialty Manufacturing. Parts that are removed should be discarded. If you have had the stop arm(s) replaced prior to this notification due to this defect, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Please contact Specialty Manufacturing. After you've completed the service work outlined by Specialty Manufacturing, mark the enclosed post card with VIN's and mark recall complete. In all cases the card is self addressed to Mid Bus, Inc., 505 East Jefferson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817 and should be sent back to Mid Bus, Inc. The card will be forwarded to Specialty Mfg for reimbursement.

**If you need to contact Specialty Manufacturing, the service number is 800-951-7867.**

If you have trouble completing this recall without charge, you may contact Mid Bus customer service at 877-358-6055. By Federal law, we are required to let you know that you can contact the Administration, NHTSA at 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20590 or call NHTSA's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153): or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>. Federal law requires leasee to forward this notice to leasor within 10 days.

Mid Bus is counting on its vendors to provide you service for installed components. Please cooperate with Specialty Manufacturing in completing this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

Paul Kessler  
President  
Mid Bus, Inc.