

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

On June 17, 2005, Specialty Manufacturing advised us that a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 131 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 Responsibility and Reports. (Specialty Manufacturing supplied us with the list of stop arms P/N (part numbers) and quantities on July 13, 2005).

Date this report was prepared: August 3, 2005 and completed on August 11, 2005

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

NHTSA campaign identification number: 05V-352

Girardin Minibus Inc. campaign identification number: 05-010-SAU (we have changed the last letter of the campaign identification number. On the previous report it was written 05-010-SAS).

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: _____

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.

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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:** 2001-2002-2003-2004-2005

Model(s): MB II & MB IV School bus

Production Dates: Beginning: January 2002 **Ending:** August 8, 2005

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

Vehicle Type: Ford E350, E450, GM 3500 **Bodystyle:** School Bus

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

Recalled vehicles are equipped with Specialty Manufacturing model 5-series stop arms (serial number between 480380 and 627609).

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

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** 47.8

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.

59% of the MBII & MBIV school buses manufactured between January 1, 2002 and August 8, 2005.

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 Potentially Involved Vehicles</u>
MB2 School bus	2001	42
MB4 School bus	2001	3
MB2 School bus	2002	630
MB4 School bus	2002	191
MB2 School bus	2003	236
MB4 School bus	2003	222
MB2 School bus	2004	55
MB4 School bus	2004	90
MB2 School bus	2005	13
MB4 School bus	2005	16
Total:		1498

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

1498

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

Possibly 100% of the vehicles exposed to extremely cold weather.

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 was determined by the production date and part numbers given by Specialty Manufacturing.

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.

Specialty Manufacturing Co. has received reports that in extremely cold weather under certain conditions, the microswitches used internally to position the sign in the open and 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.

See enclosed Specialty Manufacturing technical bulletin # 505 for illustrations.

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

Internal stop arm microswitches may malfunction in extremely cold weather.

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

Stop arm sign may open or close to an improper position, or to no open at all.

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.

Specialty Manufacturing Co.
P. O. Box 790
10200 Pineville Road
Pineville, NC 28134-0790

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

Dana Spurgeon, National Sales Manager, Tel: 800-951-7867

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 June 17, 2005, we received an e-mail from Mrs. Amy Williams saying there is a recall on certain model 5-series stop arms manufactured between January 1, 2002 and March 1, 2005. On July 13, 2005, we received a list of stop arm part numbers & quantities affected by this recall.

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.

Specialty Manufacturing must have already supplied this information to NHTSA.

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.

Replace the microswitches by the service kit supplied by Specialty Manufacturing.

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

Visually none as far as we know.

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.

Starting August 8, 2005 we are connecting the heater on all 5-Series Specialty stop arms on the production line as per Specialty recommendation. For the involved stop arms still in inventory, we do not have to replace the microswitches according to Specialty Manufacturing as long as the heater is connected.

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 start mailing letters to the owners (dealers or end users) of all the minibuses affected by this recall in the 3 days after we receive the notification letter approval from NHTSA. We are planning to have all the letters mailed in 2 weeks. The parts needed and the recall replacement procedure will be shipped free of charge by Specialty Manufacturing to all the minibus owners. 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.

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