



GILLIG CORPORATION

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October 11, 2005

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administration for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington DC 20590

05V-473
(14 pages)

Subject: Gillig Recall of Certain Detroit Diesel Engine Equipped Buses

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with the procedures outlined in 40CFR 573.6, Gillig is submitting the attached Safety Defect Information Report. Gillig was notified by Detroit Diesel Corporation of a safety recall they are conducting on the ECM (Engine Control Module) of certain Series 50 engines provided to Gillig and installed in transit buses.

Gillig has provided Detroit Diesel with the VIN's corresponding to the engine serial numbers they provided. Detroit Diesel is conducting the recall. The recall will effect five Gillig buses.

Sincerely,

GILLIG CORPORATION

Charles E. Koske
Senior Vice President, Engineering

CEK/vo
Attachment

cc: R. Birdwell

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On September 7, 2005, Gillig Corporation [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: October 11, 2005

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

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.

Gillig Corporation 25800 Clawiter Road Hayward, Ca 94545

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


Charles E. Koske Sr. Vice President Engineering

Telephone Number: (510) 264-5031 Fax No.: (510) 264-3897

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Charles E. Koske

Sr. Vice President Engineering

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 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): Gillig **Model Years Involved:** 2003-2004 **Model(s):** Phantom & low floor transit buses

Production Dates: not significant **Ending:** not significant

VIN Range: : not significant – uses of the S-50 engine option identifies vehicle to be recalled

Vehicle Type: Bus **Bodystyle:** high & low floor floor buses

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

Use of certain Detroit Diesel Series 50 engines identified by serial number

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.

Approximately 1% of Gillig buses built during the time period had the certain S-50 engines

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Model	Year	Potentially Involved	Number of Vehicles
Phantom	2003	1	
Low Floor	2003	3	
Low Floor	2004	1	

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: **5**

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

Gillig has no knowledge – wasn't responded to on DDC form 573

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:

Cross reference between Gillig VIN numbers and engine serial numbers provided by DDC

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.

Per DDC form 573 should a malfunction occur a sensor would fail to indicate the condition

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

Per the DDC form 573 the cause is a program error in the ECM (engine control module).

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

Per the DDC form 573 the malfunction could result in a vehicle fire.

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

Per the DDC form 573 the failure can occur without warning.

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

The engine is supplied to Gillig by Detroit Diesel Corporation (DDC)

Detroit Diesel Corporation
13400 Outer Drive, West
Detroit, Michigan 48239-4001

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

Mr Glenn Lysinger Chief Compliance Officer-NAFTA Powertrain Detroit Diesel

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.**

See attached DDC 573 report

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.**

Detroit Diesel will conduct a Safety Recall Campaign per their 573 report

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

See attached DDC 573 report.

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.

Per DDC form 573 the calibration was corrected in production in October, 2004

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.

Gillig has already supplied DDC the Vehicle serial numbers and contact information to enable them to conduct the recall.

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.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579, As Amended: This information is requested pursuant to the authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action

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

On July 12, 2005, Detroit Diesel [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. N/A) 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.**

Date this report was prepared: July 15, 2005

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

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.

Detroit Diesel Corporation
13400 Outer Drive West
Detroit, Michigan 48239

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

Glenn W. Lysinger
Chief Compliance Officer- NAFTA Powertrain

Telephone Number: (313) 592-7357 Fax No.: (313) 592-7888

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Glenn W. Lysinger
Chief Compliance Officer -- NAFTA Powertrain

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.

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): Series 50 Model Years Involved: 2002 to 2004 Model(s): Transit

Production Dates: Beginning: 10-3-2002 Ending: 10-10-04

VIN Range: Beginning: 4R-41397 Ending: 4R-46700

Vehicle Type: N/A Bodystyle: N/A

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

Engines in vehicles of this group which have not had a temperature sensor activated by the ECM software calibration are to be recalled.

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.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
Series 50	2002	44
"	2003	102
"	2004	12
"	N/A (Remanufactured)	2

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:
160

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

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:

Build records and warranty information records were examined to determine the population which was built when the temperature sensor had been installed but the ECM software was not configured to activate it.

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.

Should an engine malfunction occur on these engines, the sensor would fail to indicate.

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

The ECM calibration was released with a software error in the programming. This was not detected during software and engine testing prior to release.

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

Engine malfunction could possibly lead to engine and vehicle damage and potential for a vehicle fire.

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

An engine malfunction can occur without warning. When such a condition occurs that could lead to visible exhaust smoke, this can be seen out the tailpipe. In cases where particulate filters are installed on the exhaust system, there is no visible smoke.

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

The ECM software is not a component. It is created and released by Detroit Diesel Corporation.

Detroit Diesel Corporation

13400 Outer Drive West

Detroit, Michigan 48239

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

Carsten Reinhardt, Chief Executive Officer

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.

Since the introduction of the 2002 through 2004 model year engines, there have been no cases of engine malfunction for which the word fire was reported. This information was determined by a search of warranty records. There have been no fatalities associated with these affected units.

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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.

8/16/04 Calibration was validated and uploaded to the mainframe.

10/10/04 Reports from the field indicate the exhaust temperature sensor is disabled in the calibration.

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.

Detroit Diesel will conduct a Safety Recall Campaign to reprogram calibration in the ECM to enable the exhaust temperature sensor.

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.

Detroit Diesel Corporation has created a Calibration Review Board (CRB) to prevent release of software in calibrations to ensure the parameters planned have been adequately verified and validated prior to release.

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

The ECM calibration enables the temperature sensors on the engines being recalled.

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 ECM calibration was loaded to the mainframe computer for programming of new engines with enabled temperature sensor logic in October 2004.

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.

ECM reprogramming will commence immediately upon agreement with the NHTSA
investigator. There are no problems anticipated with the proposed recall.

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.*

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