

August, 2005

RECEIVED
OSV-215



Dear Girardin Minibus Customer:

2005 AUG 19 P 1:08

OSV-352

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

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Based on information provided to us by Specialty MFG Co. (SMC), Girardin Minibus has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2002 through 2005 model year MBII and MBIV school buses manufactured between January 1, 2002, and July 8, 2005. These buses are equipped with 5-series stop arms manufactured by SMC between January 1, 2002 and March 1, 2005. All stop arms manufactured during these dates will have a serial number between 480380 and 627609. Our records show that you own the vehicle with the vehicle identification number shown above with your name & address.

What the safety issue is...

In extremely cold weather, the microswitches 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. Should the stop arm not perform properly, a child or a pedestrian may be endangered by passing vehicles should the motorist not stop at the correct location.

What we are asking you to do...

Girardin Minibus is recommending the bus owners to contact Specialty Manufacturing for a service kit.

Call toll free: 1-800-951-7867 extension customer service or go online to: www.specmfg.com/products_bus_1.html and select the page entitled "5-series stop-arm campaign". Enter the information provided. A service kit will be shipped to you within 3 – 5 business days.

What Specialty Manufacturing Will Do...

For each stop arm having a serial number between 480380 and 627609, Specialty will provide (free of charge) a service kit which includes instructions, mounting hardware, a service completion card, and a new switch pack that includes switches that are not as sensitive to extremely cold weather.

During installation of the service switch pack, the heater wiring should be inspected for proper installation. Installation of the switch pack should be completed in 10 minutes. Specialty will reimburse installers of the switch pack a reasonable amount for each switch pack installed. Reimbursement for installation will take place after the postage paid service registration card has been filled out and returned to Specialty Manufacturing. Parts that are removed should be discarded.

Each service kit will include a service record completion card which must be filled out completely and returned to Specialty Manufacturing for installation reimbursement.

If you have had your vehicle repaired prior to receipt of this notice, you may be entitled to reimbursement if you incurred any out of pocket cost due to this matter. For further information, please contact Specialty Manufacturing at 1-800-951-7867 extension customer service.

Changed address or sold the vehicle?

If you have changed address, or have sold the vehicle, please complete the last section of this letter, sign and date it then fax to Girardin so we can update our records. Our fax number is 819-477-1848. The information you provide will be used to notify the new owner about this recall. If you have leased this vehicle to another person or organization, you must forward this letter to the lessee within 10 days.

Should Specialty Manufacturing fail or is unable to remedy the situation without charge, you may contact: Girardin Minibus Service and Warranty department at 819-477-8222. Should Girardin Minibus fail or is unable to remedy the situation without charge, you may contact:

US Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400, 7th Street South-West, Washington, DC 20590, 888-327-4236
(TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in our efforts to keep our children safe.

Best regards,
Luc Guillemette, Service & Warranty manager
Girardin Minibus, Inc.

Recall 05-010-SAU		(NHTSA recall # 05V-352)
<u>DO NOT COMPLETE THIS SECTION UNLESS:</u> You have changed name, moved or no longer own this vehicle.		
Vehicle serial number:		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> This vehicle was stolen.		
<input type="checkbox"/> This vehicle was destroyed.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have changed name or moved (indicate new name/address):		
<input type="checkbox"/> I no longer own the vehicle, it has been sold or traded to:		
Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____		
State: _____		
Zip code: _____		
Signature: _____		Date: _____