



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

APR 27 2006

MR. LUC GUILLEMETTE
SERVICE & WARRANTY MANAGER
GIRARDIN MINIBUS INC.
TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY
DRUMMONDVILLE, QUEBEC CANADA J2B 6V4

NVS-215kjs
06V-133

Subject: WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

Dear MR. GUILLEMETTE:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
GIRARDIN/MB II/2006
GIRARDIN/MB IV/2005-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 06V-133

Mfg's Report Date: April 20, 2006

Components:
EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 13

Summary:
CERTAIN GIRARDIN MY 2005 AND 2006 MB IV SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL BUSES AND 2006 MB II SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JUNE 29, 2005, AND MAY 10, 2006, AND EQUIPPED WITH RICON K-SERIES WHEELCHAIR LIFTS, P/N K5505-F1020000A & K2010-F1020000A. THE WELDING PROCESS MAY NOT HAVE ACHIEVED FULL PENETRATION ALONG THE SEAM OF THE VERTICAL ARMS. IMPROPERLY WELDED VERTICAL ARMS WILL NOT ALLOW THE LIFT TO STOW PROPERLY.

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT THIS CONDITION OCCURS DURING PASSENGER OPERATIONS IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CLOSE THE LIFT DOOR CAUSING THE VEHICLE INTERLOCKS TO REMAIN ENGAGED PREVENTING MOVEMENT OF THE VEHICLE OR THE ABILITY TO LOAD OR UNLOAD PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE VEHICLE.

Remedy:

GIRARDIN IS WORKING WITH RICON TO REMEDY THESE BUSES. THE TWO VERTICAL ARMS WILL BE REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE EVEN IF ONLY ONE ARM IS CRACKED. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MAY 2006. OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON CUSTOMER SUPPORT DEPT. AT 800-322-2884 OR OWNERS MAY CONTACT GIRARDIN AT 819-477-8222.

Notes:

GIRARDIN RECALL NO. 06-013-LIU. CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV).

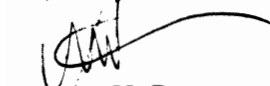
The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have reviewed Girardin's proposed owner notification letter and envelope and they meet the requirements of Part 577. Girardin is required to notify purchasers, dealers, and distributors in accordance with 49 CFR Part 577 and must submit a representative copy of all notices, bulletins and other communications to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

It is our understanding that Ricon will be providing quarterly status repots for this campaign.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227 or by email at KSCHULER@NHTSA.DOT.GOV. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement