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(6 pgs.)

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

On June 26, 2006, Girardin Minibus decided that a defect which relates to noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 108 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 11, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 06-014-BLU

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) Canada
J2B 6V4

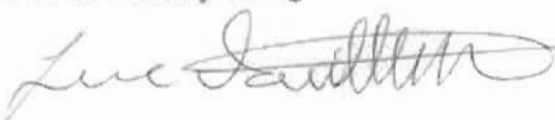
Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

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: 

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INVESTIGATION

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): Girardin

Model Years Involved: 2006

Model(s): MB II and MB IV School & commercial buses

Production Dates: Beginning: April 3, 2006 **Ending:** June 19, 2006

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

Vehicle Type: Ford chassis E-series E350 & E450, GM chassis with 6.6L diesel engine & GM chassis with 4.8L gas engine

Body style: School & Commercial buses

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

Recalled vehicles are equipped with 7" dia. back-up lights P/N 32EZZ014 and were manufactured from April 3, 2006 to June 19, 2006 inclusively.

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.

100 % of the MB II & MB IV school & commercial buses manufactured from April 3, 2006 to June 19, 2006 inclusively that are equipped with 7" dia. back-up lights P/N 32EZZ014.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Model	Year	Number of Potentially Involved Vehicles
MB II School bus	2006	133
MB IV Commercial bus	2006	8
MB IV School bus	2006	16

Total Number Potentially Affected by the recall: 157

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

Possibly 100% of the vehicles manufactured between April 3, 2006 and June 19, 2006 inclusively that are equipped with 7" diameter back-up lights P/N 32EZZ014.

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:

On April 1st, 2006 we received another shipment of 7" diameter back-up lights P/N 32EZZ014. On June 20, 2006 we did notice the difference in the intensity on back-up lights P/N 32EZZ014 during an inspection on the assembly line.

To determine the recall population we selected all the minibuses equipped with the new 7" diameter back-up lights P/N 32EZZ014 received on April 1st, 2006. We started to install these new 7" diameter back-up lights on April 3, 2006. We started to modify and install the modified 7" diameter back-up lights on June 20, 2006.

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 7" diameter back-up lights P/N 32EZZ014 may light up on the low intensity instead of the high intensity requested to meet the regulation # 108.

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

The bulb inside the back-up light P/N 32EZZ014 has 2 intensities. The back-up lights always work, but the way they were wired internally by the supplier, sometime they light up on the high intensity and sometime they light up on the low intensity.

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

The back-up lights may light up on the low intensity.

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

There is no warning of the defect except that the back-up lights may not illuminate on the high intensity.

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

KD Lighting Products Inc.
400 Myron Street
Hubbard, OH 44425

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

Greg Verbick, representative
Sheldon Bryner, representative
Telephone number: 440-293-4064
Fax number: 440-415-0687
E-mail: gverbick@atc-lighting-plastics.com & sbryner@lighting-plastics.com

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 April 3, 2006 we began to install new batch of 7" diameter back-up lights, P/N 32EZZ014, we received from KD Lighting Products Inc. on April 1st, 2006.
- On June 20, 2006, during a visual inspection, we discovered that on the same vehicle, the back-up lights, P/N 32EZZ014 were lighting up in two different ways (one on the high intensity and the other on the low intensity).
- One of the back-up light was removed from the minibus and brought to the electrical engineer. He discovered that the way the back-up lights were wired internally by the supplier, sometime they light up on the high intensity and sometime they light up on the low intensity.
- The same day, we made sure we connected all of them on the high intensity. The workers on the assembly line were shown how to verify the back-up lights intensity.
- We listed all the vehicles manufactured between April 3, 2006 and June 19, 2006 inclusively. We got a total of 157 vehicles: 25 delivered to dealers, 36 in our yard (ready for delivery) and 96 in production or not completed. All the vehicles in our yard (including in production & not completed) will be repaired before delivery.

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.

We have no test to provide.

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.

A notification letter will be mailed to the end users & dealers. We will recommend them to remove the 2 back-up lights & to replace them with the ones we will supply free of charge. Instructions will be sent with the lights. Labor will be paid by Girardin Minibus.

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.

We will supply the dealers & end users 2 single-contact back-up lights (with 2 wires: one for the power & one for the ground) per vehicle. They will have to remove the 2 double-contact back-up lights & replace with the ones supplied.

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

The remedy lights will be single-contact back-up lights with 2 wires: 1 black for the power & 1 white for the ground.

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 June 20, 2006, we connected all of the 7" diameter back-up lights P/N 32EZZ014 on the high intensity. Girardin Minibus will supply new back-up lights to dealers & final owners to make the remedy easier and quicker.

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.

Girardin Minibus anticipates notifying its dealers no later than the end of the first week of August 2006. Notification letters will be sent to the end users no later than 2 weeks after we receive approval from NHTSA.

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.

You will find enclosed a draft copy of the notification letter.