

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

On July 7, 2006, Girardin Minibus decided that **noncompliance** with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217 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 13, 2006, revised on July 14, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 06-015-WIU

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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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
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 IV School & commercial buses, model G5
Production Dates: Beginning: January 30, 2006 Ending: July 7, 2006
VIN Range: Beginning: ----- Ending: -----
Vehicle Type: Ford chassis E-series E450, GM chassis with 6.6L diesel engine & GM chassis with 6.0L gas engine
Body style: School & Commercial buses, model G5

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

The new minibus model G5. The 2 rear side windows and the moreview window glass are bonded to the frame of the windows.

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 IV school & commercial buses, model G5, manufactured from January 30, 2006 to July 7, 2006 inclusively.

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 IV Commercial bus G5 | 2006 | } We request CONFIDENTIAL treatment on this information |
| MB IV School bus G5 | 2006 | |
| Total Number Potentially Affected by the recall: | | |

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

1%

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:

All the G5 minibuses built will have to be inspected to make sure that the 2 rear side windows and the moreview window are bonded properly to the frame of the window.

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 2 rear side windows and the moreview window (located in the front of the passenger entrance door) may not be bonded correctly so they may become detached from the window frame and in this case do not meet the FMVSS 217.

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

The procedure to bond these windows was not applied correctly on the assembly line.

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

These windows may become detached from the window frame.

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

The window will become detached partially so there could be water infiltration and/or the window may move or vibrate.

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

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

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 July 5, 2006, we found water in 2 G5 Minibuses that were ready for delivery. We discovered that the rear side windows were not bonded all around on the frame of the windows. After further inspection, the engineering department determined that the procedure to bond the windows has not been applied correctly.

On July 7, 2006, we inspected all the G5 Minibuses still in our yard to make sure that these windows were bonded correctly.

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.

A water infiltration test was performed on July 5, 2006 and it was determined that the adhesion to the glass failed. It became clear that FMVSS 217 performance requirements for these windows was affected since the retention is assured by the adhesive.

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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 inspect the moreview window & the 2 rear side windows as per the inspection procedure we will supply with the notification letter. In the event of windows not bonded correctly, end users & dealers will have to contact Girardin Minibus for further repair instructions. Girardin Minibus will assume all reasonable charges related to the remedy.

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.

The vehicles have to be inspected. The ones with windows not bonded correctly will have to be repaired according to exact procedure to properly bond these windows.

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

Visually none.

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 July 7, 2006, all the G5 vehicles are tested to make sure that these windows are bonded correctly.

The procedure for the vehicles on the assembly line and the vehicles already built is the same.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

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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.

As we are using some sections of the owner's notification letter to write notification to the dealers, we anticipate notifying our dealers no later than one week after we receive approval from NHTSA. Owner's notification letters will be sent no later than 3 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,

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August 2006

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

Girardin Minibus has decided that **noncompliance** with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 217 (Bus emergency exits and window retention and release) may exist in certain 2006 G5 MBIV Ford & GM school & commercial buses.

Our records show that you own the vehicle with the vehicle identification number shown above with your name & address.

What the safety issue is?

The rear side windows and the moreview window (located in the front of the passenger entrance door) may not be bonded properly so they may become detached from the window frame. This could endanger pedestrian, motorist or occupant of the vehicle.

What should you do?

As soon as possible, inspect the moreview window & the 2 rear side windows **as per the inspection procedure enclosed**. If one of the window is not bonded properly, there could be water infiltration and/or the window may move or vibrate.

How long will it take?

Time required to do the inspection is about 5 minutes.

Time required to repair each window is approximately 20 minutes.

What should you do if the windows are bonded properly?

Fill the enclosed inspection sheet and return it to Girardin Minibus. This will enable us to update our records and send you the reimbursement for the inspection. You can fax it to 819-477-1848 or you can use the postal envelope enclosed.

What should you do if the windows are not bonded properly?

Contact Girardin Minibus after-sale service at 819-477-8222. **We will give you the instructions how to have the problem fixed.**

If you've already paid for this service?

If you paid to have this service done before the date of this letter, Girardin Minibus is offering a refund. Please send your paid original receipt with a copy of this letter to Girardin Minibus or give it to your dealer.

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.



If you require any further assistance, please call our after-sale service at 819-477-8222. Please have your vehicle identification number ready for our representative when you call.

Should Girardin 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
Phone: (888) 327-4236

We apologize for this situation and want to assure you that, with your assistance, we will correct this condition.

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

Recall 06-015-WIU

(NHTSA recall # 06V-255)

DO NOT COMPLETE THIS SECTION UNLESS: You have changed name, moved or no longer own this vehicle.

Vehicle serial number: _____

- This vehicle was stolen.
- This vehicle was destroyed.
- I have changed name or moved (indicate new name/address):
- I no longer own the vehicle, it has been sold or traded to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____