

April 2006

06V-133



Vehicle serial number:

Owner's identification (name & address)

Dear Girardin Minibus Customer:

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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2005 & 2006 model year MBII & MBIV commercial & school buses manufactured between June 29, 2005 and May 10, 2006. These buses are equipped with Ricon K series platform style wheelchair lifts. This decision was based on information provided to us by Ricon Corporation. 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 vertical support arms on certain Ricon K-5505 & K-2010 series platform style wheelchair lifts manufactured between June 12 and July 1, 2005 were improperly welded. The potential safety defect is the result of a welding process that may not have achieved full penetration along the seam of the weld. Ricon has determined that a weld with less than full penetration will exhibit signs of cracking along the exterior portion of the vertical arm. This will be most visible when the lift is in the **stowed** position since this is when the weld joint is in tension. Signs of cracking may not be visible when the platform is **at floor level or below or is occupied** because the weld joint is in compression at this time. Ricon is not certain how many cycles it takes for the problem to surface. However, once a weld joint cracks, the lift will become difficult to stow or deploy.

In the event this condition occurs during passenger operation 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.

**Warning of the defect...**

A visual inspection of the weld may reveal cracking but it must be done when the lift is in the stowed position.

**What we are asking you to do...**

Girardin Minibus is recommending the bus owners to conduct a visual inspection of the vertical arms weld as follows:

1. Place the vehicle in a safe position and operate the lift through one complete cycle unoccupied.
2. With the lift in the stowed position, inspect the exterior weld seams on each side of BOTH vertical arms looking for visible signs of cracking. (See drawing of K Series wheelchair lift components attached).
3. If the lift operates normally and there is no signs of cracking along the weld joints, the lift may continue to be safely operated. This visual inspection should be repeated during each scheduled maintenance interval as outlined in the Ricon operator's manual.

If there are visible signs of cracking, or if you have difficulty deploying or stowing the lift, you should take the following steps:

- a) Return the lift to the stowed position in the vehicle and turn off power to the hand control.
- b) Tag the lift to show it is NOT OPERATIONAL following the own "lockout/red tag" procedures.
- c) Contact Ricon Customer Support Dept. at 800-322-2884 to report the lift's condition.

**DO NOT USE THE LIFT** again until an authorized factory-trained technician has completed all repairs.

**What Ricon will do...**

Ricon will work with the end user to replace the vertical arm(s) as quickly as possible. If the end user is already factory trained to perform this service, the repairs can be done at the operator's location. If the end user is not factory trained to perform this service, Ricon will arrange for the repairs to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. In some cases, these repairs may be performed by Ricon Corp. personnel.

Ricon has elected to replace both arms on each lift even if only one vertical arm is cracked. They will provide all the necessary replacement parts at No Charge. If the repairs are done by the end user, Ricon will reimburse for reasonable costs in accordance with their "Labor Allowance Schedule". Ricon will provide a full one-year parts & labor warranty on the new arms.

**How long will it take...**

The estimated time to inspect the weldment is around 5 minutes. The estimated time to replace the vertical arms if necessary is 1 hour. Due to service scheduling requirements the Ricon dealer may need your vehicle for a longer period of time.

If you have had your vehicle repaired due to this defect prior to receiving this notice and had to pay for such repair, you may be entitled to reimbursement. For more information, please contact Larry McNutt at Ricon at (818) 267-3001.

**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 Ricon 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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

**Recall 06-013-LIU (NHTSA recall #06V-133)**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

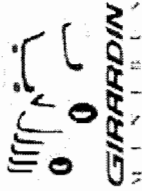
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Route Transcanadienne  
Drummondville (Québec) J2B 6V4

## SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

**Girardin Minibus Inc.**  
Service & Warranty Department  
Trans-Canada Highway  
Drummondville, (Québec) J2B 6V4

# The Best.