



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

MAY - 4 2007

MS. CHANTAL BLANCHETTE
GIRARDIN MINIBUS INC.
SERVICE AND WARRANTY COORDINATOR
TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY
DRUMMONDVILLE , QEUBEC, CANADA J2B 6V4

NVS-215kjs
07V-189

Subject: FMVSS 404/RICON WHEEL CHAIR LIFTS

Dear MS. BLANCHETTE:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent noncompliance 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/G5/2006
GIRARDIN/G5/2006-2007
GIRARDIN/MB II/2006
GIRARDIN/MB IV/2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 07V-189

Mfg's Report Date: April 27, 2007

Components:

EQUIPMENT ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 50

Summary:

CERTAIN GIRARDIN SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN MARCH AND DECEMBER 2006. THE DEFECT INVOLVES THE INTERLOCK SWITCH SYSTEM IN THE LIFT NOT DETECTING THE PRESENCE OF A PASSENGER (EITHER WHEELCHAIR OR STANDEE) ON THE RICON WHEELCHAIR PLATFORM LIFT WHICH DOES NOT CONFORM TO FEDERAL

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 404, "PLATFORM LIFT SYSTEMS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES."

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT THIS CONDITION OCCURS DURING PASSENGER OPERATIONS IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR THE WHEELCHAIR TO TIP BACKWARDS ONTO THE PLATFORM WHEN THE PLATFORM WAS LOWERED. THIS COULD RESULT IN INJURY TO THE WHEELCHAIR'S OCCUPANT. ALSO, ANYONE STANDING ON THE PLATFORM COULD LOSE HIS OR HER BALANCE AND FALL, RESULTING IN INJURY.

Remedy:

GIRARDIN IS WORKING WITH RICON TO REPAIR THE BUSES FREE OF CHARGE (PLEASE SEE 06E101). THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MAY 2007. OWNERS CAN CONTACT GIRARDIN AT 819-477-8222 EXT. 401 OR RICON AT 800-322-2884.

Notes:

GIRARDIN'S RECALL NO 07-016-RIU. 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 noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

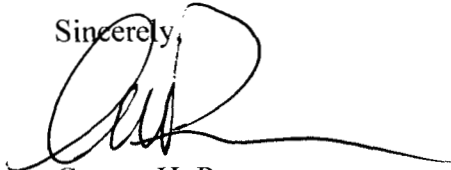
Girardin must file a sample of the envelope which you intend to use to mail the recall notice to owners. The words "SAFETY", "RECALL", "NOTICE" in any order must be printed on the envelope in larger font than the customers name and address.

We have received Girardin's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete. Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted 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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. The recall is expected to begin during May 2007. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after close of the calendar quarter.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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