

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

On February 1st, 2007, Girardin decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 404 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: April 27th, 2007

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 07-016-RIU

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, Qc. Canada J2B 6V4

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

Chantal Blanchette, Service and Warranty Coordinator

Telephone Number: 819-477-8222 Ext: 401 Fax No 819-475-9633

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Chantal Blanchette

Service and Warranty Coordinator

Signed:



RECEIVED
2007 MAY - 1 A 11: 27
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 / 2007 **Model(s):** MBII School, MBIV School and Commercial and G5 models

Production Dates: Beginning: March 2006 **Ending:** December 2006

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

Vehicle Type: Ford E350, E450, GM 33500 and GM33800

Bodystyle: School and Commercial buses

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

Recalled vehicles are equipped with a Ricon wheelchair lift product built between January 6th 2006 and September 6th 2006 inclusive. It applies to Ricon's 2000 and 5500 series platform lifts labeled "DOT Public Use" only.

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

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

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

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

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.

To be confirmed

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
MBII School bus	2006	14
MBIV Commercial bus	2006	3
G5 School bus	2006	16
G5 Commercial bus	2006	15
G5 School bus	2007	2

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 50

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

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:

The recall population was determined by the production date and model numbers given by Ricon Corporation.

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.

Potential non-compliance with S6.10.2.7 of the FMVSS403. Ricon corporation has decided in some cases the inner barrier interlock switch system in the lift will not detect the presence of a passenger (either wheelchair or standee) on the inner barrier.

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

This condition can result at installation if the installer runs wire through the baseplate assy and the wires lodge under the trigger block for the interlock switch interfering with the switch movement. This would allow the platform to move down more than one inch below floor level while occupied.

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

If this condition occurs, It may be possible, during passenger operation, for the wheelchair to tip backwards onto the platform if the user is backing onto the lift from inside the vehicle and has the small front wheels fully or partially on the inner barrier when the platform was lowered. A standee could lose his or her balance if they were positioned fully or partly on the inner barrier when the platform was lowered.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur. None

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

RICON CORPORATION
7900 Nelson Road,
Panorama City,
California, 91402

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

BILL HINZE, Vice president, Ricon Corporation 1-800-322-2884

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 February 1st, 2007, we received a notice from Ricon (Mr. Bill Hinze) saying there was a potential non compliance with certain models of wheelchair lifts built between January 6th 2006 and September 6th, 2006., accompanied by a list of Models affected by this recall.

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.

Ricon Corporation must have already supplied this information to NHTSA.

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.

The reimbursement procedure will be provided by Ricon to the owners of vehicles which needs modification. All informations will be included on the notification letter we will supply to the owners.

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.

Ricon will work with the end customer to locate and correct the source of interference or other problems with the inner barrier interlock switch.

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

Unknown

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.

No correction is required on our production line.

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.

We will mail a letter to the owners (dealers and/or end users) of all the minibuses affected by this recall by a date “to be confirmed”. The parts needed and the recall replacement procedure will be shipped free of charge by Ricon Corporation to all the minibus owners. The labor will be reimbursed if the corrections are made by a factory trained technician at the customer’s facilities.

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.*

DRAFT COPY ALREADY SUBMITTED.

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.