

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

On November 21, 2007, Girardin Minibus received a letter from The Braun Corporation about a recall on certain wheelchair lift products **and decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exits 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: December 7, 2007

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 07-018-BRU

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.

Chantal Blanchette
Service & Warranty Coordinator

Telephone Number: 819-477-8222 ext. 401 **Fax No.:** 819-477-9633

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Chantal Blanchette
Service & Warranty Coordinator

Signed:

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:** 2003, 2005 & 2006

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

Production Dates: Beginning: July 2005 **Ending:** June 2006

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

Vehicle Type: Ford & GM chassis with 6.0L & 6.6L engine equipped with Braun lift model NL916, 917, 919

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 certain series 02 through 04 dual parallel arm Braun model wheelchair lifts manufactured from July 2005 to June 2006.

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

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

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

Vehicle Type: _____ **Body style:** _____

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 equipped with Braun wheelchair lifts series 02 through 04 dual arm model.

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 Commercial bus	2003	5
MB IV School bus	2005	1
MB IV Commercial bus	2005	1
MB II School bus	2006	1
MB IV Commercial	2006	3
MB IV School bus	2006	22

Total Number Potentially Affected by the recall: 33

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

Possibly 100 % of the MB II & IV school & commercial buses equipped with Braun wheelchair lifts series 02 through 04 dual arm model manufactured from July 2005 to June 2006 .

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:

Braun supplied a complete list of the dual arm model lifts we purchased that were manufactured during the specified time period. All lift models and serial numbers were included. We determined the recall population according to the lift serial numbers given by Braun.

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.

Certain (series 02 through 04) dual parallel arm model wheelchair lifts manufactured from July 2005 through June 2006 fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 571.404, "Platform lift installations for motor vehicles". This non-conformity may result in a passenger approaching the exposed lift doorway without the audible alarm alerting them of their proximity to the threshold. As a result, they could fall out of the open door and be injured or killed.

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

There might be a non-responsive location on the threshold plate so the alarm does not activate. Braun determined the cause of noncompliance results from misinterpretation of the testing parameters.

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

The consequence of the noncompliance is that the threshold warning signal may not activate when certain portions of the threshold area are encroached.

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

When the lift platform is one inch or more below vehicle floor level, the threshold warning will activate as wheelchair rolls onto the edge of the threshold plate, but may deactivate as the wheelchair traverses the center of threshold plate. If the wheelchair continues to move across the threshold plate, the warning will again activate as the wheelchair crosses the opposite edge of the threshold plate. When a semi-ambulatory person using a cane, crutch, or walker (assistive device) encroaches the threshold, it is possible the assistive device may not trigger the warning if placed in the center of the threshold.

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

The Braun Corporation
631 W. 11th Street
P.O. Box 310
Winamac, IN 46996 USA

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

Perry DeGroot
National Sales Manager - OEM Sales
Phone: 800-946-7513 x 3010
Fax: 574-946-2364

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.

N/A

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.

On November 21, 2007, we received a letter from Braun about a recall of certain wheelchair lift products manufactured between July 2005 and June 2006. On November 30, 2007 they supplied a complete list of the lifts Girardin Minibus purchased that were manufactured during the specified time period. Lift models, serial numbers and end customers were included. We determined the involved vehicles according to the list supplied by Braun.

As per the information supplied by The Braun Corporation, there have been no claims, accidents, injuries or fatalities associated with the noncompliance.

Braun has already supplied this information to NHTSA, please check under recall 06E-094.

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.

Girardin Minibus will mail notification letters to all the end users & dealers will be advised of this recall. For our end user customers they have registration details, the Braun Corporation will be informing them of this recall and they will be supplying service bulletin 34273 for inspection procedure. As recommended by The Braun Corporation, they will have to verify the threshold warning system. An approved Braun service technician can also perform the compliance test and retrofit if the end users prefer. According to The Braun Corporation, there should be no charge for the end users.

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 ask our end user customers to do the inspection recommended by Braun as per Service Bulletin 34273 (a copy is enclosed).

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

Please refer to The Braun Corporation for this information.

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.

According to the Braun Corporation, the recall condition was corrected in production on series 05 lifts manufactured after July 19, 2006.

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 December 7, 2007. 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.

December 2007



DRAFT

Vehicle serial number:

Lift model, series and 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 certain (series 02 through 04 dual parallel arm model) wheelchair lifts installed in 2003, 2005 & 2006 model year MBII and MBIV commercial & school buses manufactured between June 2005 and May 2006 fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 571.404 "Platform lift installations for motor vehicles. Your lift, identified above, is affected and this recall is being conducted based on information provided by Braun.

What the safety issue is...

This non-conformity may result in a passenger approaching the exposed lift doorway without the audible alarm alerting them of their proximity to the threshold. As a result, they could fall out of the open door and be injured or killed.

What we are asking you to do...

To correct this condition, please verify the threshold warning system is within NHTSA specification. Refer to the instruction labeled **34273** supplied by Braun for this procedure. If you prefer, an approved Braun service technician will perform the compliance test and retrofit.

What Braun will do...

Braun will mail notification letters & recall procedure to all the end users.

How long will it take...

The work will take less than 15 minutes to complete. However, additional time may be required depending on your inspection. If after your inspection you determine further attention is needed, please contact your local Braun dealer service center and schedule an appointment.

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 819-475-9633. 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 have any problem obtaining the needed repair or wish to schedule service with an approved Braun technician, please contact The Braun Corporation Product Support at 1-800-946-7513. A Braun Product Support representative will arrange for prompt attention to your lift.

Should Braun 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, 7th Street South-West, Washington, DC 20590, 888-327-4236
(TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>

We regret any inconvenience this action may cause you and we thank you for your cooperation.

Best regards,

Chantal Blanchette
Service & Warranty Coordinator
Girardin Minibus, Inc.

Recall 07-018-BRU (NHTSA recall #XXXXXX)

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: _____

DATE: December 7, 2007

TO: Girardin Minibus Distributors

SUBJECT: Recall # 07-018-BRU (NHTSA # 06E-094)
Braun series 02 through 04 dual parallel arm model wheelchair lifts

FROM: Chantal Blanchette, Service & Warranty Coordinator, Girardin Minibus



Please find enclosed a copy of the notification letter we will mail to our end users in the next days regarding Braun recall:

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 certain (series 02 through 04 dual parallel arm model) wheelchair lifts installed in 2003, 2005 & 2006 model year MBII and MBIV commercial & school buses manufactured between June 2005 and May 2006 fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 571.403 "Platform lift systems for motor vehicles. Your lift, identified above, is affected and this recall is being conducted based on information provided by Braun.

The safety issue is: This non-conformity may result in a passenger approaching the exposed lift doorway without the audible alarm alerting them of their proximity to the threshold. As a result, they could fall out of the open door and be injured or killed.

What we are asking you to do: To correct this condition, please verify the threshold warning system is within NHTSA specification. Refer to the instruction labeled **34273** supplied by Braun for this procedure. If you prefer, an approved Braun service technician will perform the compliance test and retrofit.

What Braun will do: Braun will mail notification letters & recall procedure to all the end users.

How long will it take: the work will take less than 15 minutes to complete. However, additional time may be required depending on your inspection. If after your inspection you determine further attention is needed, please contact your local Braun dealer service center and schedule an appointment.

A list of the involved vehicles is enclosed. If some have been sold & are not registered yet, please register them as soon as possible.

Distributors are reminded of their responsibilities under section 154 of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1991. Dealers are required to have their units in inventory modified/repaired before delivering to the final owner.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (819) 477-8222 extension 401. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.