

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

**07V-574
(8 pages)**

On November 30, 2007, Girardin Minibus decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety) 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: November 30, 2007

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 07-019-BXU

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, 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

RECEIVED
18 DEC 2007 9:00A
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Telephone Number: 819-477-8222 ext. 401 **Fax No.:** 819-475-9633

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:** 2004 through 2008

Model(s): MB II & MB IV Ford Diesel school & commercial minibuses equipped with option BBX (battery box)

Production Dates: Beginning: April 14, 2004 **Ending:** November 28, 2007

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

Vehicle Type: Ford E350 & E450 Diesel **Bodystyle:** School & commercial minibuses

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

These vehicles have a battery box door and compartment on the passenger's side.

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 on Ford Diesel chassis 2004 through 2008 equipped with the option BBX (battery box).

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Year	Model	
	MBII Ford Diesel	MB IV Ford Diesel
2004	55	35
2005	172	37
2006	171	138
2007	10	12
2008	0	10
Total	408	232

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 640

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 100%

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 of the minibuses affected by this recall is Ford chassis diesel MY 2004 and later with the Option BBX - battery box. These minibuses have been manufactured from April 14, 2004 through November 28, 2007.

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 protection from abrasion on the battery cables that cross in the battery box is inadequate. Check the enclosed service bulletin for illustrations.

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

The protection from abrasion on the battery cables that cross in the battery box is inadequate.

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

The protection is inadequate and may create a short circuit in case the abrasion between the cables is excessive. This short circuit could result in a fire.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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.

No incident caused by this defect has been reported to Girardin as of today. In September 2007, it was seen on a one year old used vehicle brought in Girardin facilities for repairs that there was some abrasion between the positive and negative battery cables of the 2 batteries. Excessive vibration created by a separated battery box support on this unit was also noted conducting to the association of excessive vibration and abrasion of the cables. Since then, other units were verified and the battery cables were worn but not as much as seen back in September. On November 29th 2007, a meeting was held to determine the risks of a short in the cables and the risks that other units could present such excessive wear. Although excessive abrasion was not noted on many units, we do not know how long it could take for abrasion to create a shortage. Because of the risks identified that represent a short and because it may take various time frame to happen, we have decided to recall all possible units with the same battery cable pattern whether or not vibration of the compartment is the cause.

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.

N/A

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.

Parts required to do the recall will be shipped at no charge & labor will be reimbursed upon receipt of the completion card. The reimbursing procedure will be included on the notification letter we will supply to 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.

Improve the protection on the battery cables that cross in the battery box by adding protective tubes. See the attached remedy instruction.

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

There will be protective tubes on battery cables in the battery box when the recall will be completed. See the attached remedy instruction.

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.

The recall condition was corrected in production on Ford diesel vehicles by adding the protective tubes on battery cables in the battery box on November 29th 2007.

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 the recall campaign will begin during the week of January 7, 2008 the latest. At that time, dealers and end users will begin to be notified regarding the recall. Parts required to complete the recall will be shipped free of charge and labor will be reimbursed upon receipt of the completion card.

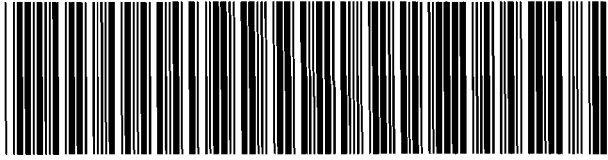
VII. Furnish Recall Communications

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.

You will find enclosed a draft copy of the notification letter & the recall procedure.

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

RECALL DOCUMENT



RCDNN-07V574-3103

Artemis # : 07V574000

Record Created Date : 12-14-2007

Printed Date : 12/14/2007

Mfr Name : GIRARDIN MINIBUS INC.

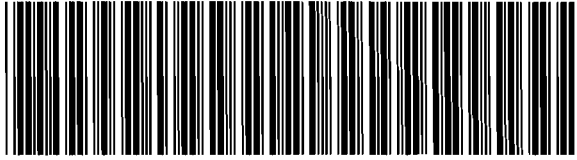
Description : BATTERY BOX CABLE

Document Type : Defect and Noncompliance Notice(Part 573)

Print

Close

RECALL DOCUMENT



RCAK-07V574-4847

Artemis # : 07V574000

Record Created Date : 12-14-2007

Printed Date : 12/14/2007

Mfr Name : GIRARDIN MINIBUS INC.

Description : BATTERY BOX CABLE

Document Type : Recall Acknowledgement

Print

Close