



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

MAR 14 2008

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

MS. VALERIE FORTIN
STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS TECHNICIAN
GIRARDIN MINIBUS, INC.
TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY
DRUMMONDVILLE QUEBEC CANADA J2B 6V4

NVS-215kjs
08V-120

SUBJECT: FMVSS 403/RICON WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

DEAR MS. FORTIN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Girardin Minibus, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403, "Platform Lifts Systems for Motor Vehicles," for the vehicles listed below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

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/G5/2007-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-120

Mfg's Report Date: March 10, 2008

Components: EQUIPMENT:ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 13

Summary:

GIRARDIN IS RECALLING 13 MY 2007 AND 2008 MB IV (G5) SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL BUSES, MANUFACTURED BETWEEN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2007, EQUIPPED WITH RICON WHEELCHAIR LIFT SERIES 5500 MANUFACTURED FROM APRIL 1, 2005 TO OCTOBER 9, 2007. THE THRESHOLD WARNING SYSTEM MAY NOT DETECT THE PRESENCE OF A WHEELCHAIR OR MOBILITY AID USER IN A CERTAIN SPOT WITHIN THE DEFINED THRESHOLD AREA. THESE LIFTS DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE

REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 403, "PLATFORM LIFT SYSTEMS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES."

Consequence:

THE USER OF THE LIFT COULD BE INJURED SHOULD THE LIFT MOVE UNINTENTIONALLY.

Remedy:

GIRARDIN WILL NOTIFY THEIR OWNERS AND INSTRUCT THEM TO CONTACT RICON FOR A FREE REPAIR. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING MARCH 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON AT 818-267-3000 OR GIRARDIN AT 819-477-2012 EXT 428.

Notes:

GIRARDIN'S RECALL NO. 08-020-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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The information in your noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

We have received Girardin's proposed owner notification letter and envelope and they meet the requirements of Part 577. 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. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for the successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Wallace

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