



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

SEP 16 2008

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

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

NVS-215kjs
08V-463

SUBJECT: FMVSS 403/WHEELCHAIR LIFTS/ANTI STOW/RICON

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 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403, "Platform Lift Systems for Motor Vehicles," in 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/MB IV G5/2005-2006
GIRARDIN/MB II/2005-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-463

Mfg's Report Date: September 3, 2008

Components: EQUIPMENT:ADAPTIVE

Potential Number of Units Affected: To be determined

Summary:

GIRARDIN IS RECALLING CERTAIN MY 2005 AND 2006 MB II AND MB IV G5 SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN 2005 AND DECEMBER 2006, EQUIPPED WITH RICON S OR K SERIES WHEELCHAIR LIFTS. THE ANTI-STOW INTERLOCK MAY NOT DETECT THE PRESENCE OF A WHEELCHAIR OR MOBILITY AID USER. THE PRESSURE SENSING SWITCH THAT DETECTS THE PRESENCE OF WEIGHT ON THE PLATFORM WAS NOT ADJUSTED TO THE NECESSARY SENSITIVITY LEVEL. THE LIFT COULD STOW EVEN THOUGH SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS STILL ON THE LIFT

WHICH FAILS TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 403, "PLATFORM LIFT SYSTEMS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES."

Consequence:

A LIFT OCCUPANT CAN BE INJURED SHOULD THE LIFT BEGIN TO STOW UNINTENTIONALLY.

Remedy:

GIRARDIN IS WORKING WITH RICON TO CORRECT THE WHEELCHAIR LIFTS (PLEASE SEE 07E097). THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING SEPTEMBER 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT RICON AT 1-800-322-2884 OR GIRARDIN MINIBUS AT 1-819-477-2012 EXT. 428.

Notes:

GIRARDIN'S RECALL NO. 08-021-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).

This recall was the subject of an Equipment Query, EQ08-011, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

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.

We have received Girardin's proposed owner notification letter and it meets 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,

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