



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

DEC 31 2008

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

NVS-215kjs
08V-691

SUBJECT: FMVSS 209/MISSING SEAT BELT LABEL

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. 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies," 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 II/2008-2009

GIRARDIN/G5/2008-2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08V-691

Mfg's Report Date: December 18, 2008

Components: SEAT BELTS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 210

Summary:

GIRARDIN IS RECALLING 210 MY 2008 AND 2009 MB II AND G5 SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN AUGUST 1 AND DECEMBER 12, 2008, EQUIPPED WITH SEAT BELTS (OPTION SMK2, SBK3). THE SEAT BELTS MAY NOT HAVE THE CORDING OR TAG IDENTIFICATION WHICH DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 209, "SEAT BELT ASSEMBLIES."

Consequence:

THIS STANDARD REQUIRES PROPER IDENTIFICATION OF THE SEAT BELT MANUFACTURER FOR SEAT BELT ASSEMBLIES.

Remedy:

GIRARDIN WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPLACE NONCOMPLIANT SEAT BELTS FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 12, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT GIRARDIN 1-819-477-8222 EXT. 401.

Notes:

GIRARDIN'S RECALL NO. 08-024-SBU. 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.

We have received Girardin's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete. 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