

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

On February 29, 2008, Girardin Minibus received a letter from Ricon 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: March 10, 2008

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 08-020-RIU

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.

Valérie Fortin
Standards and Regulations Technician
Telephone Number: 819-477-2012 ext. 428 **Fax No.:** 819-477-1848

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Valérie Fortin
Standards and Regulations Technician

Signed:

RECEIVED
2008 MARCH 13
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

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:** 2007 and 2008

Model(s): MB IV (G5) School & commercial buses

Production Dates: Beginning: November 2007 **Ending:** December 2007

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

Vehicle Type: Ford & GM chassis with 6.0L & 6.6L engine equipped with Ricon lift model 5500

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 serie 5500 Ricon model wheelchair lifts manufactured from April 1, 2005 to October 9, 2007.

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.

34 % of the MB II & MB IV school & commercial buses equipped with Ricon wheelchair lifts serie 5500.

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 IV Commercial bus	2007	5
MB IV Commercial bus	2008	1
MB IV School bus	2008	6
Stock (still not installed in a vehicle)		1

Total Number Potentially Affected by the recall: 13

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

Possibly 100 % of the MB IV school & commercial buses equipped with Ricon wheelchair lifts series 5500 manufacture from April 1, 2005 to October 9, 2007.

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:

Ricon supplied a complete list of the 5500 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 Ricon.

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 non-compliance with S6.1 of the FMVSS 403 is the result of threshold warning system not detecting the presence of the wheelchair or mobility aid user in a certain spot within the defined threshold area. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operation the wheelchair or mobility aid user may move toward the vehicle lift door when the lift platform is below floor level. This situation could personal injury.

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

Ricon has already supplied this information to NHTSA please check under recall #07E-095.

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.

None.

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

Ricon Corporation
A Division of Vapor Bus International
7900 Nelson Road
Panorama City, CA 91402 USA

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

Oscar Pardinias
Director of Business Development
Phone: (818) 267-3085
Fax: (818) 267-3139
Email: opardinias@wabtec.com

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 February 29, 2008, we received a letter from Ricon about a recall of certain wheelchair lift products manufactured between April 1, 2005 to October 9, 2007. On February 29, 2008 they

supplied a complete list of the lifts Girardin Minibus purchased that were manufactured during the specified time period. Lift model and serial numbers were included. We determined the involved vehicles according to the list supplied by Ricon.

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

Ricon has already supplied this information to NHTSA, please check under recall 07E-095.

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.

The reimbursement procedure will be provided by Ricon to the owners of vehicles which needs modification. All informations will be included on the notification letter we will supply to the owners.

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.

The threshold warning system covers will be replaced (kit 39979).

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

Please refer to Ricon 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.

We only have one Ricon lift left in stock. This lift is the quarantine area. We will apply the remedy as mentioned to this lift before the delivery of the vehicle.

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, March 20, 2008. Notification letters will be sent to the end users no later than 2 weeks after we will 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.



March 11, 2008

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 has decided that certain MY 2007 and 2008 G5 model school and commercial buses manufactured between November 22, 2007 and December 21, 2007 inclusive and equipped with Ricon 5500 series platform lifts fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403, "Platform Lift System for Motor Vehicles."

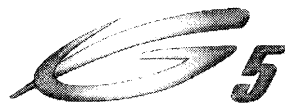
Our records show that the lift, identified above, has been installed in your vehicle and is affected by this recall according to the information provided by Ricon Corporation.

What the safety Issue is:

The non-compliance with S6.1 of the FMVSS 403 is the result of the Threshold Warning System not detecting the presence of a wheelchair or mobility aid user in a certain spot within the defined threshold area. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations the wheelchair or mobility aid user may move toward the vehicle lift door when the lift platform is below floor level. This situation could cause personal injury.

What we are asking you to do:

Please follow Ricon Corporation instructions below.



Trans-Canada Highway Drummondville Québec J2B 6V4
minibussales@girardin.com www.girardin.com www.mfsab.com

What Ricon Corporation will do:

Upon notification, Ricon will work with you to obtain the necessary parts and make the retrofit. If you are already trained to perform this service, the retrofit can be done at your location (follow the procedure on the document attached). If you are not factory trained to perform this service Ricon will arrange for the retrofit to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. The lift retrofit will include removal and replacement of the TWS covers using TWS retrofit kit # 39979. Ricon will provide all the necessary replacement parts at No Charge and will pay labor of \$37.50 for each retrofit.

If the lift is retrofitted by an authorized Ricon dealer and it is not completed within 3 business days, please notify Ricon Customer Support at the toll free number 1 800 322-2884 or (818) 267-3000.

If you have had your vehicle repaired prior to receipt of this notice, you may be entitled to reimbursement if you incurred any out of pocket cost due to this matter. For further information, please contact Ricon Customer Support at the number listed above.

Should Ricon corporation fail or be unable to remedy the situation without charge, you may contact: Girardin Minibus at 819 477-2012 Ext: 428.

Should Girardin Minibus fail or be unable to remedy the situation without charge, you may contact:

Administrator,
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20590
Phone (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>

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 return 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.

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

Best regards,

Valérie Fortin, Regulations and Standards Technician
Girardin Minibus Inc.

Recall 08-020-RIU

(NHTSA recall 07E-095)

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: _____ Province: _____ Postal code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DATE: March 11, 2008



TO: Girardin Minibus Distributors

SUBJECT: Recall # 08-020-RIU (NHTSA # 07E-095)
Ricon 5500 serie Platform lifts labelled "DOT Public Use"

FROM: Valérie Fortin, Regulations and Standards Technician, Girardin Minibus

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

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Girardin has decided that certain MY 2007 and 2008 G5 model school and commercial buses manufactured between November 22, 2007 and December 21, 2007 inclusive and equipped with Ricon 5500 series platform lifts fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 403, "Platform Lift System for Motor Vehicles."

Your lift, identified above, is affected and this recall is being conducted based on information provided by Ricon.

The safety issue is:

The non-compliance with S6.1 of the FMVSS 403 is the result of the Threshold Warning System not detecting the presence of a wheelchair or mobility aid user in a certain spot within the defined threshold area. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations the wheelchair or mobility aid user may move toward the vehicle lift door when the lift platform is below floor level. This situation could cause personal injury.

What we are asking you to do:

Please follow Ricon Corporation instructions below for the vehicle (s) affected by this recall still in your inventory.

What Ricon will do:

Upon notification, Ricon will work with you to obtain the necessary parts and make the retrofit. If you are already trained to perform this service, the retrofit can be done at your location (follow the procedure on the document attached). If you are not factory trained to perform this service Ricon will arrange for the retrofit to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. The lift retrofit will include removal and replacement of the TWS covers using TWS retrofit kit # 39979. Ricon will provide all the necessary replacement parts at No Charge and will pay labor of \$37.50 for each retrofit.

If the lift is retrofitted by an authorized Ricon dealer and it is not completed within 3 business days, please notify Ricon Customer Support at the toll free number 1 800 322-2884 or (818) 267-3000.

If you have had your vehicle repaired prior to receipt of this notice, you may be entitled to reimbursement if you incurred any out of pocket cost due to this matter. For further information, please contact Ricon Customer Support at the number listed above.

Should Ricon corporation fail or be unable to remedy the situation without charge, you may contact: Girardin Minibus at 819 477-2012 Ext: 428.

Should Girardin Minibus fail or be unable to remedy the situation without charge, you may contact:

Administrator,
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20590
Phone (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>

How long will it take: The work will take (to be determined) 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 Ricon 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 819 477-2012 extension 428. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.



Ruelle Transcandinave Inc.
Dorval, Québec J2B 6V2

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

HOWELL TWP
251 PREVENTORIUM ROAD
NJ
07731

Instruction procedure:

You will need Ricon Kit # 39979, provided at no charge.

1. Park the vehicle in a safe location.
2. Locate and remove 2 bolts at the bottom of the Threshold Warning System (TWS) covers on the inboard surfaces of the right and left side baseplate towers.
3. Slide the covers up to remove top cover clips from towers.
4. Remove optical sensors and retainer clips from inside the two cover assemblies.
5. Reinstall sensors into new TWS covers with new retainer clips provided.
6. Slide new covers over towers and reinstall the 2 bolts at the bottom of the towers.
7. Discard original parts.