

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

On September 19, 2008, 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: October 1, 2008

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 08-023-BBU

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.

Valérie Fortin

Regulations and Standards Technician

Telephone Number: 819 477-2012 ext. 428 Fax No.: 819 475-9633

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Valérie Fortin

Regulations and Standards Technician

Signed: Valérie Fortin



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: 2008

Model(s): MB II school equipped with option BBX (battery box)

Production Dates: Beginning: October 1, 2007 Ending: September 19, 2008

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

Vehicle Type: GM G/Van Diesel Bodystyle: School 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.

21 % of the MB II 2008 manufactured between October 1, 2007 and September 19, 2008. This percentage includes the Canadian recalled models.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model
	MBII GM Diesel
2008	40
Total	40

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 40

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 50 %

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 GM chassis diesel MY 2008 equipped with the Option BBX - battery box. These minibuses have been manufactured from October 1, 2007 through September 19, 2008.

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.

A long bolt (1.25 in.) might have been installed on the positive battery post located in the battery box.

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

A long bolt is installed on the positive battery post of the battery located in the battery box on GM diesel school minibus. This bolt could make contact with the battery drawer's latch.

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

The contact between the long bolt and the drawer's latch may create a short circuit. This short circuit could result in a fire or explosion.

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.

On September 12, 2008 we received a warranty claim from a customer about long bolts installed on the positive battery post on the battery box. In the next days, we did some research on the vehicles on the assembly line and found that some vehicles received the good bolt (a short one) and other vehicles received the longer one.

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.

The long bolt and spacer are replaced by a short bolt on the positive battery post of the battery located in the battery box. See the attached remedy instruction.

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

The short bolt protrudes 0.875 in long from the battery and is installed without the use of a spacer. The long bolt protrudes 1.25 inches long from the battery and it is installed with a spacer.

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 GM diesel vehicles by replacing the long bolt by a short one on September 19th 2008.

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 October 13, 2008 at 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.