

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports**<sup>1</sup>

On December 12, 2008, Girardin Minibus 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: December 18, 2008

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 08-024-SBU

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.: 819 477-1848

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Valérie Fortin

Regulations and Standards Technician

Signed: Valérie Fortin

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<sup>1</sup> 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 and 2009

Model(s): MB II and G5 school equipped with seat belts (option SBK2, SBK3)

Production Dates: Beginning: August 1st, 2008 Ending: December 12, 2008

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

Vehicle Type: GM and Ford Cutaway Bodystyle: School minibuses

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

These vehicles are equipped with seat belts.

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.

68 % of the MBII school buses

97 % of the G5 school buses

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

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

Year	Model	Model
	MBII	G5
2008	110	58
2009	23	19
Total	133	77

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 210

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 10 %

**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 all school buses produced after the receipt of seat belts work order number 104257 produced on August 21, 2008 and work order number 105535 production on October 5, 2008. School buses subject to this recall were manufactured between August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 and December 11, 2008. The seatbelt work order number is indicated on the tag sewn into the seatbelt.

### **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 seatbelt will not tighten around the passenger because the webbing was inserted incorrectly into the tongue assembly. Consequently the seatbelt offers no restraint in the event of an accident.

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

The seatbelt webbing was inserted into the tongue assembly incorrectly. The cording and the tag manufacturer identification could be missing too. See attached picture for more detail.

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

The seatbelt will not tighten around the occupant and will not offer restraint in the event of an accident and it may cause injury.

**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.**

Beam's Industries Inc. (via CE White)  
P.O. Box 762  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0762  
USA

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

Mike Bosley, president Beam's Industries Inc.

#### **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 December 11, 2008 our team member has found a non-conform seat belt during a repair of a vehicle. At that time, we have advised our inspectors and the team member who is mounting belts on seats.

We placed all belts on quarantine for inspection. A partial inspection was proceeded to assure good material on our production line. On December 16, a list of suspect vehicles was done for a recall.

The rest of suspect material was return to the supplier via non-conformity documentation. On December 17, the supplier has sent certified replacement parts to maintain our production flow with good parts. The supplier of the belts will provide us corrective action plan.

**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.**

No testing is required to determine this condition of non-compliance.

#### **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.**

Owner will be informed of the inspection procedure. If, after inspection, the seat belt is noncompliant, the parts required to do the recall will be shipped at no charge & labor will be reimbursed by Beam's Industries Inc. upon receipt of the reimbursement form. 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 defectives seat belts will be replaced. The recall condition and the remedy condition are indicated in the attached diagrams and inspection documentation.

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

Reference attached diagram and inspection documentation.

**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 defective part had been removed from the production line immediately at the time that a defective part had been found and they have been replaced by new inspected parts. New production remedy is identical to the recall remedy in the field. Additionally, 100% of production personnel affecting this recall have been re-trained and new qualification requirements have been established for operators performing this task at Beam's facility.

## **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 January 12, 2009 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.**

**DRAFT**



December 2008

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act of Canada*.

Girardin Minibus has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2008 and 2009 MBII and G5 school minibuses equipped with seat belts (options SBK2 and SBK3). Our records show that you own the vehicle with the vehicle identification number shown above with your name & address.

**What the safety issue is?**

The seatbelt webbing was inserted into the tongue assembly incorrectly. The seatbelt will not tighten around the occupant and will not offer restraint in the event of an accident and it may cause injury. The cording and the tag manufacturer identification could be missing too. See attached picture for more detail.

**What should you do?**

Inspect the seat belt as per the Inspection Criteria Guide. If the seat belt has not been laced correctly or if the cording or the tag identification is missing the seat belt have to be replaced.

**What we are asking you to do...**

If the seat belt is defective or non-compliant it must be replaced. Please contact Wade Johnson or Mike Mills at Beam's Industries, 6420 South Air Depot, Oklahoma City, OK 73135 phone: (405) 793-0505 to get the replacement parts and procedure.

After you have done the repair, please return the reply sheet AND non-compliant seatbelt to Beam's Industries. This will enable Beam's to update their file and mail you a check for the labor.

If you prefer, you can make an appointment with your dealer to have it done free of charge (parts & labor).

**How long will it take?**

Time required to inspect the seat belt and change it if required is approximately 15 minutes per seat.

**If you've already paid for this service?**

If you paid to have this service done before the date of this letter, Beam's is offering a refund. Please send your paid original receipt with a copy of this letter to Beam's Industries Inc.

**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 fax 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.



If you require any further assistance, please call our after-sale service at 819-477-8222 extension 401. Please have your vehicle identification number ready for our representative when you call.

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

**US Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**  
1200 New Jersey Ave S.E., Washington, DC 20590  
Phone: (888) 327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to  
<http://www.safercar.gov>

We apologize for this situation and want to assure you that, with your assistance, we will correct this condition.

Best regards,

Valérie Fortin  
Regulations and Standards Technician  
Girardin Minibus inc.

**Recall 08-024-SBU** (NHTSA #)

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



DATE: December 2008

TO: Girardin Minibus Distributors

SUBJECT: Recall # 08-024-SBU (NHTSA # )  
Defective seat belt

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 Girardin Minibus recall # 08-024-SBU:

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

Girardin Minibus has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2008 and 2009 MBII and G5 school minibuses equipped with seat belts (options SBK2 and SBK3). Our records show that you own the vehicle with the vehicle identification number shown above with your name & address.

**The safety issue is:** The seatbelt webbing was inserted into the tongue assembly incorrectly. The seatbelt will not tighten around the occupant and will not offer restraint in the event of an accident and it may cause injury. The cording and the tag manufacturer identification could be missing too. See attached picture for more detail.

**What we are asking you to do:** Inspect the seat belt as per the Inspection Criteria Guide. If the seat belt has not been laced correctly or if the cording or the tag identification is missing the seat belt have to be replaced.

**If the seat belt is defective or non-compliant it must be replaced. Please contact Wade Johnson or Mike Mills at Beam's Industries, 6420 South Air Depot, Oklahoma City, OK 73135 phone: (405) 793-0505 to get the replacement parts and procedure.**

After you have done the repair, please return the reply sheet AND non-compliant seatbelt to Beam's Industries. This will enable Beam's to update their file and mail you a check for the labor.

If you prefer, you can make an appointment with your dealer to have it done free of charge (parts & labor).

**How long will it take:**

Time required to inspect the seat belt and change it if required is approximately 15 minutes.

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A list of the involved vehicles is enclosed. If some have been sold & are not registered yet, please register them as soon as possible.

Dealers are required to have their units in inventory modified/repared before delivering to the final owner.

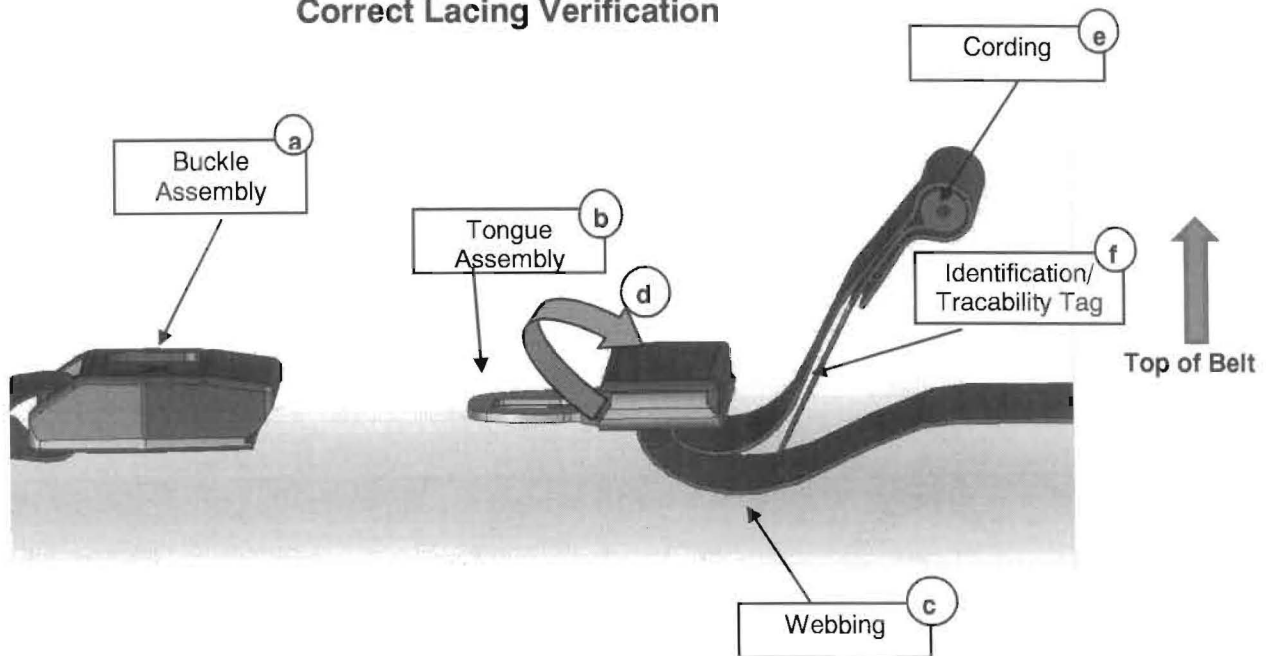
Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (819) 477-2012 extension 428. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

## Model 1324 Seatbelt Inspection Criteria

### Incorrect Lacing Configuration



### Correct Lacing Verification



### Inspection Instructions

- 1 Position the Buckle Assembly (a) with mating Tongue Assembly (b)
- 2 Position belt with Tongue Assembly (b) pointing toward the Buckle Assembly (a)
- 3 Verify Webbing (c) is routed (d) through the Tongue Assembly (b) with the Cording (e) toward the top side of the belt
- 4 Verify the identification/tracability tag (f) and cording (e) is present



## CUSTOMER REIMBURSEMENT

**IMPORTANT:** This form and non-compliant product must be completed by owner and returned to Beam's Industries for reimbursement.

### SECTION 1

Minibus Body No. \_\_\_\_\_  
VIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 2

This section must be completed when repairs are done. Send replaced seatbelt with this form. Check one of the following:

	Labor
Repair done by owner	<input type="checkbox"/> US \$15.00/seat
Repair done by Girardin Distributor	<input type="checkbox"/> US \$15.00/seat
Repair done by other (Attach copy of invoice)	<input type="checkbox"/> US \$20.00/seat

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_