



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

August 19, 2009

MS. VALERIE FORTIN  
REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS TECHNICIAN  
GIRARDIN MINIBUS, INC.  
3000, RUE GIRARDIN  
DRUMMONDVILLE, QUÉBEC J0E 1A0

NVS-215kjs  
09V-322

**SUBJECT: FOLDING SEAT INSTALLATION BOLTS**

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 Nos. 207, "Seating Systems," and 210, "Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages" in the vehicles listed below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

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/G5/2006-2009

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 09V-322      **Mfg's Report Date:** August 4, 2009

**Components:** SEATS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** To be determined

**Summary:**

GIRARDIN IS RECALLING MODEL YEAR 2006 THROUGH 2009 G5 NON-SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JUNE 1, 2006 AND JULY 2009 EQUIPPED WITH FREEDMAN FOLDING SEATS. THE LOCATION OF THE BOLTS USED FOR THE ANCHORAGE OF THE FREEDMAN FOLDING SEAT INSTALLED IN THESE VEHICLES IS IMPROPER. THE SEAT FLOOR REINFORCEMENT DOESN'T COVER THE ENTIRE SEAT BOLTS FIXATION BECAUSE OF A CROSS MEMBER INTERFERENCE. THESE SEATS FAIL TO CONFORM TO THE STRENGTH REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NOS. 207, "SEATING SYSTEMS," AND 210, "SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY ANCHORAGES."

**Consequence:**

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, THE SEAT AND SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY MAY NOT RESTRAIN THE OCCUPANT AS INTENDED POSSIBLY RESULTING IN INJURY OR DEATH TO THE SEAT OCCUPANT.

**Remedy:**

GIRARDIN WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPAIR THE BUSES FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING AUGUST 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT GIRARDIN AT 1-819-477-2012 EXT 401.

**Notes:**

GIRARDIN'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NO. 09-031-FSU. 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.

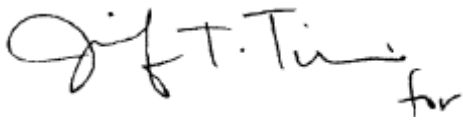
The information in your noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto: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 that reads "George H. Person" with a stylized flourish at the end, and the word "for" written below the signature.

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement