

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

On June 25, 2009, 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: June 29, 2009

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 09-026-BAU

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.
3000, rue Girardin
Drummondville (Québec) J2E 0A1

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: _____

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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:

Model(s): G5 school bus

Production Dates: Beginning: January 23, 2007 Ending: June 23, 2009

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 21, 30, 34 or 39 inches C.E. White low back barrier.

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.

94 % of all US G5 school buses

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model
	G5
2006	29
2007	91
2008	199
2009	157
Total	476

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 476

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

95 %

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 population was determined based on information received from C.E. White. Therefore, all vehicles equipped with barriers of this model type and construction manufactured between 1/23/07 and 6/23/09 are deemed suspect.

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 noncompliance was determined following testing of the Barrier Forward Push Test which resulted in unsatisfactory test results.

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

The cause of this non compliance is not determined at this time.

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

Since the barrier do not meet the FMVSS 222 performance forward, vehicle occupants could suffer injuries in the event of a vehicle crash.

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.

C.E. White Company, 417 N. Kibler Street, New Washington, Ohio, 44854, USA

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

Jennie Boyle, Manager Q/A & Warranty at 239-218-7078

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 June 26, 2009, Mike Rossey, engineer at NHTSA, informed us that a 39 in. barrier installed in one of our G5 school bus he was testing for safety compliance fails to comply with FMVSS 222 barrier performance forward. We advise our supplier, C.E. White the same day.

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.

[See attached document # 1](#)

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.

[Dealers and owners will be informed of the inspection procedure no later than the end of July. If, after inspection, the barrier is found noncompliant, the parts required to do the recall will be shipped at no charge & labor will be reimbursed by C.E White Company upon receipt of the reply sheet. The reimbursing procedure will be included on the notification letter we will send 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 design drawing for the barrier frame has been updated to incorporate a bracket change on the wall mount side of the barrier frame. In process stock has been reworked

and tested to include this bracket. The modified barrier frame will pass compliance requirements for the FMVSS 222 forward push test. See attachment #3 for test results.

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

The recalled barrier frame will have a straight bracket welded to the frame tube on the wall mount side; the remedy assembly (replacement) will have an “L” bracket welded to the frame on two sides of the tube on the wall mount side.

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 we were informed of the noncompliance. We do not install low barrier anymore in our vehicle. We will restart production of vehicle equipped with low barrier as soon as we will get new compliant stock from C.E. White.

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 before the end of July, 2009. 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 reply sheet.

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.