

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 \(Quebec\) 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.

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: 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 39 inches C.E. White 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.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model
	G5
Total	

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

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

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:

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.

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

The barrier fails to comply with FMVSS 222 S5.2.3 barrier performance forward.

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

If an accident occurs, the barrier could break and so not protect the occupant sit in the seat immediately behind it.

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

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

Jimmy Boyle

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.

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.](#)

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.

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.

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

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.

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 , 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.



Girardin C80902 B1 Preliminary Test Results

G5 MB-IV 200C VIN: 1FD4E45PX8DB40217

Table of contents:

1. Abstract.....	2
2. Results	2
Figure 1: Front left barrier Force/Deflection results	2
Figure 2: B1 Barrier Pre-Test	3
Figure 3: B1 Barrier Post-Test.....	3
Figure 4: B1 Post test close up view of left attachment.....	4
Figure 5: B1 Post test close up floor	4
3. Next steps	5

1. Abstract

On June 17, 2009 a 2008 Girardin G5 MB-IV 200C school bus was tested to the performance requirements of Federal motor vehicle safety standard No. 222 at MGA Research in Burlington, WI. During the forward performance test on the driver side barrier (B1) the force/deflection curve did not remain in the zone specified in S5.2.3(a).

2. Results

Figure 1 depicts the test results. During the force application on the upper bar the force/deflection data measured was below the required lower limit of the zone.

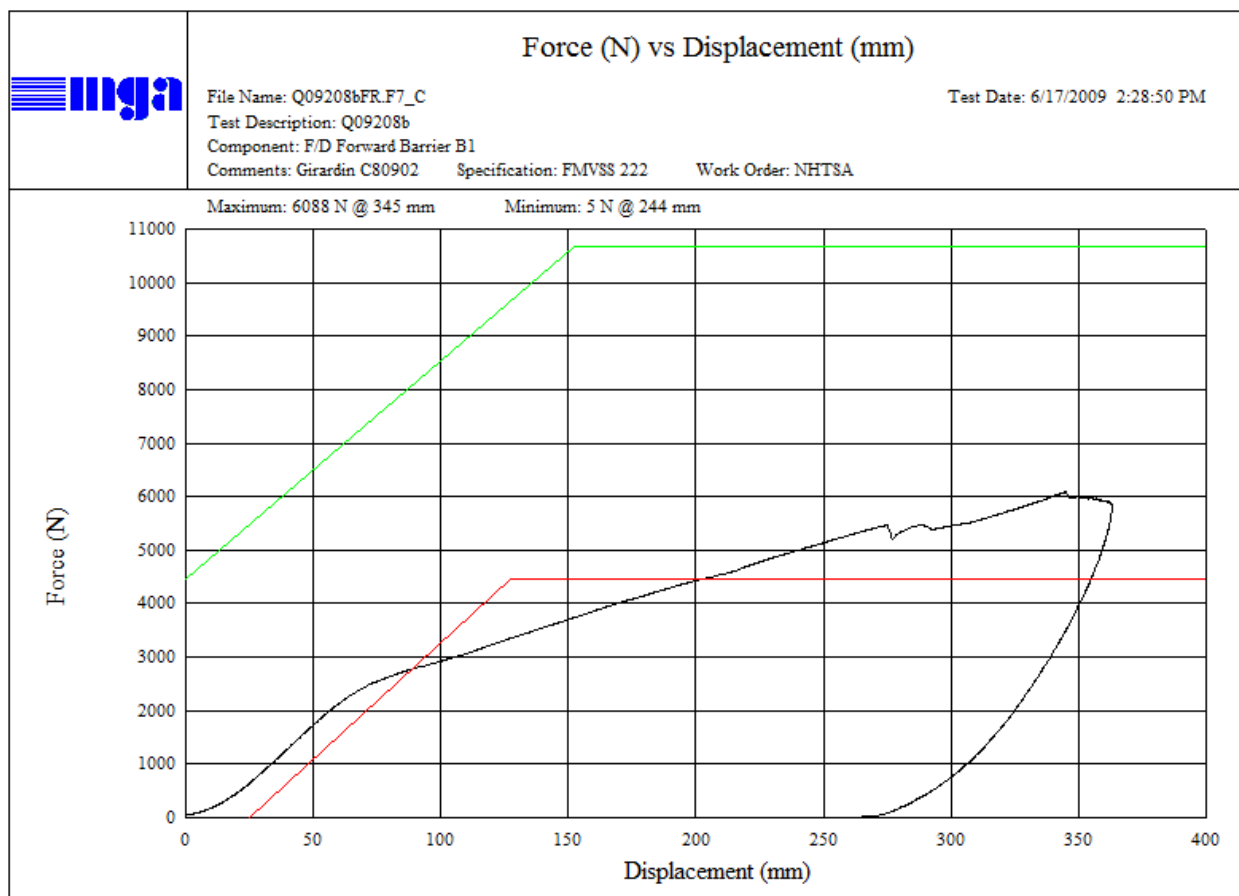


Figure 1: Front left barrier Force/Deflection results

The outboard barrier attachment fractured at the weld on the bracket to the bus sidewall (see Figure 4). Based on the pictures provided by the lab the floor had minimum deformation (see Figure 5).



Figure 2: B1 Barrier Pre-Test



Figure 3: B1 Barrier Post-Test



Figure 4: B1 Post test close up view of outboard attachment



Figure 5: B1 Post test close up floor

3. Next steps

Please provide certification tests, assembly drawings, and manufacturing process quality checks no later than June 29, 2009.