

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

On August 3, 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: August 3, 2009

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 09-029-SAU

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: _____

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

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 and MBII school bus

Production Dates: Beginning: September 01, 2008 Ending: October 31, 2008

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

Vehicle Type: GM 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 Specialty Manufacturing Inc. stop arm with LED part number 5986 option S2G.

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.

0.4 % all 2008 US school buses

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model	
	G5	MBII
2008	1	1
Total	2	

Stop arm in stock at our plant : 1

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 3

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

100 %

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 Specialty Manufacturing Inc. Therefore, all vehicle constructed between March 31, 2008 and August 3, 2009 and equipped with a stop arm identified by Specialty 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.

Premature 000290 LED light kit failures on certain stop arm model.

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

A wiring default resulting of a change to the wire cable that could cause a separation of the wires.

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

Should this happen it would render the LED lights inoperative. They may be subject to reduced service life due to this potential wiring default.

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.

Specialty Manufacturing Inc., 10200 Pineville Road, Pineville, NC, 28134, USA

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

C. Bruce Emmett, Chief Operating Officer

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 August 3, 2009, we have been notified that Specialty Manufacturing Inc. has determined that a safety defect exist in certain stop arm model.

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.

Dealers and owners will be informed of the inspection procedure no later than August 21. If, after inspection, the stop arm is found defective, a service kit will be shipped at no charge by Specialty & labor will be reimbursed by Girardin 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.

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

The suspect wiring is undistinguishable from the certified wiring.

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 has been identified immediately and removed from the production line and put in quarantine. We have asked for a service kit to Specialty Mfg. Inc.

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 3rd week of August 2009. At that time, dealers and end users will begin to be notified regarding the recall.

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 & Service Bulletin.

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.