

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

On August 4, 2009, Girardin Minibus decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety) exists 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 4, 2009

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 09-031-FSU

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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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: 2006 through 2009

Model(s): G5 non school bus

Production Dates: Beginning: June 1, 2006 Ending: July , 2009

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

Vehicle Type: Ford and GM Cutaway Bodystyle: minibuses

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

These vehicles are equipped with improper installation bolts on Freedman folding seat.

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
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
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:

All G5 non school buses (this model is in production since 2006) constructed by Girardin and equipped with a Freedman folding seat was deemed suspect. An additional verification to each floor plan is necessary to determine the recall vehicle population.

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 folding seat installed at a specific location fails to comply with the strength requirements of FMVSS 207 and 210.

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

The seat floor reinforcement doesn't cover the entire seat bolts fixation because of a cross member interference.

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

In the event of a crash, the seat and seatbelt assembly may not restrain the occupant as intended and could result in injury to the occupant or death.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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 July 15, 2009 we were informed by Freedman that a folding seat installed at a specific location where the seat anchorage interfere with the floor structure fails to comply with FMVSS 207 and 210 strength requirement.

It was very difficult to identify the affected vehicles and to know if there were any.

On July 17, we get a list of potentially affected vehicles. An additional verification to each floor plan (each vehicles are customized) was necessary to know if the seat's location renders it potentially subject to a recall.

Our plant was shut down from July, 18 to August, 2 2009.

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.

[Not yet determined.](#)

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.

[Immediately after the test result, we stop all installation of this kind of seat.](#)

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.

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.