



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 20, 2010

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

NVS-215kjs
10V-627

SUBJECT: JOINT STRENGTH

DEAR MS. FORTIN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Corp. Micro Bird, Inc.'s (Micro Bird) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 221, "School Bus Body Joint Strength," for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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/G5/2008-2009

NHTSA Campaign Number: 10V-627 **Mfg's Report Date:** December 14, 2010

Components: STRUCTURE: FRAME AND MEMBERS:UNDERBODY SHIELDS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 112

Summary:

CORP. MICRO BIRD IS RECALLING MODEL YEAR 2008 AND 2009 GIRARDIN G5 SCHOOL BUSES BUILT ON GM AND FORD CUTAWAY CHASSIS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH DECEMBER 16, 2008. THE SHEET METAL BELOW THE WINDOW INSIDE THE BUS ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE JOINT STRENGTH REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 221, "SCHOOL BUS BODY JOINT STRENGTH." THERE IS NO ADHESIVE ON THE JOINT BETWEEN THE TWO EMBOSSED ALUMINUM SHEETS.

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, THE EMBOSSED ALUMINUM SHEET MAY SEPARATE FROM THE INTERIOR COMPARTMENT STRUCTURE AND CAUSE INJURY TO BUS PASSENGERS.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL REPAIR THE BUSES BY ADDING ADHESIVE AND RIVETS BETWEEN THE 2 EMBOSSED ALUMINUM SHEETS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING JANUARY 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT CORP. MICRO BIRD AT 1-819-477-2021.

Notes:

CORP. MICRO BIRD, INC.'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS 10-039-JSU. 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 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which the campaign was initiated. Thereafter, quarterly reports will be due on or before 30 days after 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, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for the successful completion of this recall campaign. Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement