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By Recall Mgt Div. at 10:00 am, Apr 15, 2010

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

AMENDED

On [February 15, 2010](#), [Corp. Micro Bird](#) 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: [April 13, 2010](#)

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): [10-035-SEU](#)

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.

[Corp. Micro Bird 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.

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 and Micro Bird by Girardin](#) Model Years Involved: [2006 through 2010](#)

Model(s): [G5 school bus](#)

Production Dates: Beginning: [June 1, 2006](#) Ending: [April 09, 2010](#)

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:

[The vehicles are equipped with 39 or 45 in. CE White standard seats installed on floor section allowing too much movement. Seats mounted with track , having a lap/shoulder belt and/or an ICS \(integrated child restraint\) are not targeted by this recall.](#)

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.

G5 school bus delivered: 1492

G5 school bus recalled: 1146

77%

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model
	G5
2006	143
2007	130
2008	316
2009	347
2010	210
Total	1146

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1 146

- 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:

A list of all the G5 school buses (this model is in production since 2006) constructed by Girardin and Micro Bird 2010 equipped with standard 39 or 45 in. CEW seats has been created. All the floor plan of this list has been validated to identify the floor locations offering too much movement.

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 39 and 45 in. standard CEW seats failed to comply with the requirements of FMVSS 222 seat performance rearward.

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

The combination of the floor and the seat flexion hasn't allowed to reach the energy absorption required by the FMVSS.

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

In the event of a crash, the seat may not absorb sufficient energy to restrain the occupant as intended and it could result in injury to the occupant.

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.

THE C.E. WHITE CO.
P.O. BOX 308
417N KIBLER ST.
NEW WASHINGTON, OHIO
44854

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

Tony Everett, president.

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.

2009/08/06 First notice by NHTSA regarding a FMVSS 222 seat performance rearward fail.
 2009/08/24 Reception of the PE letter PE-222-090820A
 2009/10/09 Answer by Girardin to the PE letter PE-222-090820A
 Based on the Girardin rapport, a new test is requested to NHTSA.
 2009/12/15 Second notices regarding to a second fail.
 2010/01/04 Reception of the PE letter PE-222-090820A1
 2010/01/07 Answer by Girardin to the PE letter PE-200-090820A1
 2010/01/13 Action plan requested by NHTSA to Girardin
 2010/01/18 Action plan supplied to NHTSA by Girardin
 H point discrepancies related by C.E.White to NHTSA
 2010/02/03 Third notices received PE-222-090820A2
 2010/02/08 Answer by Girardin to the PE letter PE-222-090820A2
 2010/02/16 Request by NHTSA (via a phone call) that Girardin fill the 573 document.
 2010/03/15 Tests performed at Blue Bird lab facilities to confirm recall solutions.

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.

Date		Result In-lb	Rapport	Comments
2006/03/02	CEW	13,803	GR 2220302061121	No picture & graph available in the rapport
2008/05/**	M-B			Production NHTSA's vehicle 08-24233
2009/08/06	MGA	6,815 Fail	PE-222-090820A	1 st notice
2009/08/28	CEW	12,839	GR 2220828091051	Test performed on a similar floor having
2009/09/10	M-B			Answer to the PE-222-090820A
2009/12/15	MGA	7,806 Fail	PE-222-090820A.1	2 nd notice Pre-load issue Energy area calculation issue
2010/01/07	M-B			Answer to the PE-222-090820A.1
2010/01/18	CEW			H point issue (LB vs HB)

2010/02/08	M-B			Answer to the PE-222-090820A2
2010/02/26	M-B			NHTSA 573 rapport released
2010/03/16	B-B	7,800 Fail		Same location as MGA
2010/03/31	B-B	9,446		CEW new seat frame bracket design 5”
		8,816		H point lowered by 1”
		9,352		CEW Frame “proto” insert aisle side
2010/04/01	B-B	8,680		Same location as MGA + 1x16ga underneath seat support
		9,328		Leg located between two cross members
		10,000		CEW Frame with solid tube insert both side
2010/04/12	M-B			NHTSA 573 rapport completion

All the test has been performed at the NHTSA failed location.

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 notified of the recall. A service bulletin will inform them on how to correct the non compliance. Parts will be shipped at no charge & labor will be reimbursed by Micro Bird upon receipt of the reply sheet. The reimbursing procedure will be included on the notification letter that will be sent 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.

Two remedies have been tested to allow more flexibility to the customers. As mention previously, each seat in each floor plan configurations sold has been validated to evaluate the floor movement. Based on the test result obtained, the seat not meeting the energy absorption have been identified. Depending on the seat to repair in each bus, the remedy could be different for one customer to another. The remedy choice will not be at the customer discretion.

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

- 1- Seat frame bracket reinforcement: A bracket will be added on the aisle tube of the seat allowing more rigidity to the seat back frame. This tube is already available on seats having a lap/shoulder belt and an ICS (integrated child seat). This bracket will be bolted with 3 bolts.
- 2- Lowering the H point: The density of the seat cushion will be modified allowing the reduction of the H point by 1". The seat cushion will have to be identified with his seat frame to avoid a mismatch of the components in a future disassembly

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.

Since the second NHTSA's notice (December 2009), we began to install underneath reinforcement on model didn't having it. Based on the test performed at Blue-Bird, those underneath reinforcements allow the seat to meet the FMVSS 222 requirement.

Following the completion of additional tests, CEW Company will add to those seat models (standard 39" & 45") an internal reinforcement in the aisle tube frame. Those seats should be available for our production in May 2010.

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.*

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