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(5 pages) Amended

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports[1]

On March 24, 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: March 24, 2010

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 10-036-RIU

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: Valérie Fortin

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[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**: 2007 through 2010

Model(s):

Girardin G5/2007-2009
Girardin MBII/ 2007/2010
Micro Bird/ G5/2009-2010
Micro Bird/ MBII/2009/2010

Production Dates: **Beginning**: December , 2007 **Ending**: March, 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:

Vehicle equipped with Ricon DOT Public use S and K Series wheelchair lifts and DOT Public Use F9TF wheelchair lifts, manufactured between December 1, 2007 and March 23, 2010.

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.

20 % of the lift equipped vehicles

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model	
	G5	MBII
2007	2	
2008	46	2
2009	33	9
2010	10	1

Total	91	12

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 103

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:

All vehicle equipped with a Ricon lift S and K Series and installed on a vehicle between the above mentioned date 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.

The lift is equipped with a restraint belt. The restraint belt has an interlock feature. The design is such that the lift will not operate if the tongue is not fully inserted and latched in the buckle. However, if the tongue is not fully inserted and latched in the buckle, the lift will operate. Though the design of the Ricon restraint buckle has not changed in many years, a forced change due to the discontinuation of the original switch used in the buckle may be at the root of the current issue. The current switch is taller and therefore, engages sooner resulting in an increase in the distance between the switch engagement and buckle latching point. The switch change occurred in December 2007.

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

The operator does not fully engage the belt into the buckle. The lift cannot operate with the belt unlatched.

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

If the tongue is not fully latched in the buckle, the lift can operate and a wheelchair may not be adequately protected against movement. This situation could cause personal injury.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Failure to hear an audible click as the latching mechanism engages. If tugged the tongue will come out of the buckle.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Ricon Corporation
7900 Nelson Road
Panorama City, CA 91402

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

Janice Rivera, General manager

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 March 12, Micro Bird received a notification of a the recall By Ricon.
I was out of office from March 15 to March 17.
I got the documentation on March 19.
On March 22, I tried to get additional information from Ricon.
On March 24, I received additional information from Ricon.

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.

The restraint belt and the interlock meet the requirement in 49 CFR 571.403 for a retention device. However, since the interlock operates correctly if the tongue is latched in the buckle, this is a safety-related defect, not a non compliance.

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.

Micro Bird will notify theirs dealers and final customers to contact Ricon to get the necessary material for this recall. Ricon will embark on an educational campaign to raise awareness of this potential condition. All affected lifts will receive instructional and warning decals.

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.

All affected lifts will receive instructional and warning decals.
Ricon will provide the final customer with a warning decal and a DVD-based training aid to promote the "Click and TUG" campaign.

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

a. **Update all operator manuals to alert operators to fully engage the belt tongue into the buckle with a "Click and Tug" on the belt prior lift operation.**
b. **Affix a warning on the belt to "Click and Tug" prior to lift operation**
c. **Edit operator's training video to include the "Click and Tug" campaign.**

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.

Same as recall remedy.

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.

Micro Bird anticipate to proceed with this recall no later than the second week of April.

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.