

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

On March 23, 2010, Corp. Micro Bird 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: March 23, 2010

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 10-037-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

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: 2009 through 2010

Model(s): G5 and MBII bus and school bus

Production Dates: Beginning: September, 2009 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:

Vehicles equipped with Ricon DOT Public use, "L-model" and S and K Series wheelchair lifts with serial numbers in range between 227703 and 252585. (Model designation XXXX-LXXXXXXXX and KXXXX-LXXXXXXXX.) manufactured between October 2007 and March 22, 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.

11% of lift equipped vehicle

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model	
	G5	MBII
2009	43	1
2010	5	0
Total		

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 49

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 with a serial number between 227703 and 252585 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.

If the operator release the “UP” button while the lift is still moving, the lift may continue to move and eventually initiate stowage, which could tilt the platform prematurely.

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

A combination of an anomaly in the software and the operator releasing the “UP” button prior to the wheelchair lift completing the function and coming to a stop at vehicle floor level.

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

When the platform overruns the vehicle floor level and stops at an angle from 15-20 degrees, it is possible for a person in a wheelchair to tip over and for a standee to fall down and it should result in injury to the occupant of the lift platform.

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.

Ricon Corporation
7900 Nelson Road
Panorama City, CA 91402
USA

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 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.

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.

Micro Bird will inform theirs dealers and final owners to contact Ricon Corporation to get the software, training material and reimbursement if applicable.

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.

Ricon believes that this condition is preventable by merely depressing the button down until the “UP” function is completed and the platform has reached the vehicle floor level. This was not a foreseeable failure.

The software code is in the process of being re-written. Once the software code is completed and the software is validated, the code will be made available to upgrade all L-model wheelchair lifts in service.

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

Remedied lifts:

- a) Update all operator manuals to alert operators to depress the function buttons completely, until the selected function is completed and the lift comes to a stop.
- b) The updated software will be installed.

Recalled lifts: The operational software allows the lift to overrun its selected function.

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.

A remedy has not been determined. The lift has been put in quarantine and won't be installed in a vehicle until reception of a new software from Ricon.

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 anticipates the recall campaign will begin no later than the second week of April. At that time dealers and final owners will be notified of their responsibility in making the remedies to the recall population.

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.