

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

On August 12, 2010, Corp. Micro Bird decided that a non compliance 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: October 4, 2010

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 10-038-WIU

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) Micro Bird by Girardin G5 Model Years Involved: 2010

Make(s) Girardin G5 Model Years Involved: 2006 through 2010

Make(s) Girardin MBIV Model Years Involved: 2003 through 2006

Model(s): Micro Bird by Girardin G5 and Girardin G5 and MBIV

Production Dates: Beginning: August 1, 2004 Ending: August 12, 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 thermal t-slider or panoramic type push-out windows with 2 release mechanisms (one on each side).

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.

10 % of the US non school buses

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model	
	MBIV	G5
<u>2003</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>2004</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>2005</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
2006	<u>9</u>	<u>32</u>
2007	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>
2008	<u>0</u>	<u>19</u>
2009	<u>0</u>	<u>29</u>

2010	0	11
Total	25	105

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 130

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 buses built by Girardin and Micro Bird and equipped with the part number that fails the window retention test and all other windows of same design and component and of similar size are recalled.

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 window fails to comply with FMVSS 217 window retention test.

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

The design of window's latching mechanism and the design and the stiffness of window's frame and a potential insufficient retention of the window to the vehicle structure cause too much bending of the frame.

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

In the event of a crash, the emergency exit could not sufficiently restrain the occupants or become inoperable. The occupant could be thrown from the vehicle or not capable of opening the emergency exits which could cause injury or death of 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.

Industries Spectal Inc.
850, rue Moeller
Granby (Québec) J2J 1K7

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

Malcom Lapointe

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.

N/A

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.

On August 6, we have been advised by Spectal that a t-slider type push-out window equipped with one handle on each side fails to comply with FMVSS 217 window retention test. (Test result attachment 1)

Additional testing was conducted on August 10 on the same kind of window and it fails once again.

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.

Parts to perform the recall will be shipped at no charge & labor will be reimbursed 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.

Recalled condition:

Insufficient stiffness of window's frame and a potential insufficient retention of the window to the vehicle structure cause too much bending of the frame.

Remedy condition:

The addition of 5 screws on each side of the window's frame at the release handle height increase the stiffness of the frame and the window retention.

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

Recalled component:

Standard **thermal** t-slider **and panoramic** type push out window with 2 release handles (one on each side).

Remedy component:

Same **thermal** t-slider **and panoramic** type push out window with addition of 5 screws on each side of the window's frame at the release handle height covered by a yellow warning decal.

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.

The production remedy is identical to the recall remedy and began at the same time.

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.

We anticipate to notify our dealer and final customer from **October 8**.

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.