

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

On December 13, 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: December 14, 2010

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 10-039-JSU

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 G5 Model Years Involved: 2008, 2009

Production Dates: Beginning: February 1st, 2008 Ending: December 16, 2008

VIN Range: Beginning: ----- Ending: -----

Vehicle Type: Ford and GM Cutaway Bodystyle: G5 school bus

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

There is a joint below the window between two embossed aluminum sheet on the left-hand side inside the bus just rearward of the driver seating position.

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.

60 % of all G5 school buses built during the recalled period.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Year	Model
	G5
2008	<u>96</u>
2009	<u>16</u>
Total	<u>112</u>

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 98 %

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:

The school bus model that has that type of joint at the front has been identified (2NH and CRH). We did a review of the working instruction at the time the bus body 08-24233 was manufactured. An interview with retired employees on how they made the joint was conducted. An audit on the current process has been done coupled with an interview with employees currently working at this working station. This enable us to determine the period starting with the retirement of 2 employees and ending with the beginning of the current compliant process to be the recall period.

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 sheet metal below the window inside the bus on the left-hand side fails to comply with FMVSS 221 Joint strength requirements.

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

There is no adhesive on the joint between the two embossed aluminum sheets.

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

In the event of a crash, the embossed aluminum sheet may separate from the interior compartment structure and cause injury to a passenger sat beside.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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 December 8, 2010, we were advised by the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance (OVSC) that a bus in investigation seems not to be compliant with FMVSS 221. No test has been conducted at that time. On December 10, 2010 we got additional documents (photographs and video) from OVSC regarding the joint at issue. We still not have test result but the test specimen was obviously not compliant.

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 & labor will be reimbursed upon receipt of the reply sheet. The reimbursing procedure will be included with the notification letter that will be sent to the end users and dealers.

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:

There is no adhesive on the joint between the 2 embossed aluminum sheets below the window inside the bus on the left-hand side at the front.

Remedy condition:

An adhesive is added between the 2 embossed aluminum sheets.

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

Recalled component:

2 embossed aluminum sheet installed with rivets.

Remedy component:

2 embossed aluminum sheet installed with adhesive and rivets.

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. The remedy production has always been in force but there is a short period during which the working procedure was misinterpreted because of a lack in the transfer of knowledge.

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 no later than the first week of January 2011.

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.