



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 28, 2011

MS. VALERIE FORTIN
REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS TECHNICIAN
CORP. MICRO BIRD, INC.
3000, RUE GIRARDIN
DRUMMONDVILLE, QUÉBEC J2E 0A1

NVS-215kjs
11V-596

SUBJECT: FMVSS 221/CEILING METAL PANELS

DEAR MS. FORTIN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Corp. Micro Bird, Inc.'s (Micro Bird) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) Number 221, "School Bus Body Joint Strength," for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
MICRO BIRD/G5/2009-2012

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-596 **Mfg's Report Date:** December 21, 2011

Components: STRUCTURE:BODY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,227

Summary:

MICRO BIRD IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2009 THROUGH 2012 G5 SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM NOVEMBER 24, 2009, THROUGH DECEMBER 3, 2011. THE JOINT ON THE METAL CEILING PANEL FAILS TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 221, "SCHOOL BUS BODY JOINT STRENGTH."

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE METAL CEILING PANEL MAY PARTIALLY SEPARATE FROM THE BODY STRUCTURE CREATING AN OPENING. A PASSENGER IS AT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY IF THEY ARE EJECTED OR STRIKE THE CEILING PANEL.

Remedy:

MICRO BIRD WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND DEALERS WILL REPAIR THE BUSES FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING FEBRUARY 2012. OWNERS MAY CONTACT MICRO BIRD AT 1-819-477-2012.

Notes:

MICRO BIRD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS 11-049-JSU. CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which the campaign was initiated. Thereafter, quarterly reports will be due on or before 30 days after close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for the successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement