

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

On Feb. 9th, 2011, Transarctic [MFR] 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: May 16, 2011

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): Carrier Recall 11E-003

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.

- 1) Blue Bird Corporation 2) Thomas Built Buses, Inc. 3) IC Bus, LLC
- 4) Micro Bird Inc. (previously Girardin) 5) Collins Bus Corporation

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

- 1) Bill Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator-Blue Bird-Ph. 478-822-2242/Fax 478-822-2467
- 2) Tracy Sauerbrey, Recall & Warranty Mgr.-Thomas Built Bus-Ph. 336-822-2892/Fax 336-878-4104
- 3) Rick Van Laar, Mgr. of Product Compliance-IC Bus-Ph. 260-461-1890/Fax 260-461-1814
- 4) Chantal Blanchette, Ser. & Warranty Administrator-Micro Bird Inc.-Ph. 819-477-2012/Fax 819-475-9633
- 4) Ginger Markus, Warranty Co-ord. Collins Corp.-Ph. 800-533-1850/Fax 620-662-3838

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Carolynn Post
Operations Manager

Signed:


¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, 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 Ms. Jennifer Timian at (202) 366-5210, by FAX at (202) 366-7882, or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov.

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): Blue Bird **Model Years Involved:** 2006 - 11 **Model(s):** school and activity buses

The Carrier component was installed on these vehicles from April 2006 through Jan. 2011.

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A **Ending:** N/A

Vehicle Type: buses **Bodystyle:** B2VC, A1VC, SBCV, BBCV, FE & RE

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

Recalled vehicles have after-market Carrier A/C installed

Make(s): Thomas Built Bus **Model Years Involved:** 2006 - 11 **Model(s):** school and activity buses

The Carrier component was installed on these vehicles from May 2006 through Dec. 2010.

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A **Ending:** N/A

Vehicle Type: buses **Bodystyle:** Minotours, FS65, C2, EF & ER

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

Recalled vehicles have after-market Carrier A/C installed

Make(s): Collins **Model Years Involved:** 2006 - 08 **Model(s):** school & activity buses

The Carrier component was installed on these vehicles from June 2006 through March 2008.

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A **Ending:** N/A

Vehicle Type: buses **Bodystyle:** Bantam

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

Recalled vehicles have after-market Carrier A/C installed

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 Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.

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): IC Bus **Model Years Involved:** 2007 - 10 **Model(s):** school and activity buses

The Carrier component was installed on these vehicles from March 2007 through May 2010.

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A **Ending:** N/A

Vehicle Type: buses **Bodystyle:** IC CE, IC RE

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

Recalled vehicles have after-market Carrier A/C installed

Make(s): Girardin **Model Years Involved:** 2006 - 08 **Model(s):** school and activity buses

The Carrier component was installed on these vehicles from June 2006 through March 2008.

VIN Range: Beginning: N/A **Ending:** N/A

Vehicle Type: buses **Bodystyle:** MBIV, G5

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

Recalled vehicles have after-market Carrier A/C installed

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 Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
AS ABOVE IN QUESTION 2		

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1522

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:

Carrier provided the range of serial numbers for the evaporators that had the defective part in them and we searched are records identifying all EM-1 evaporators that fit the criteria that we had installed on buses. Start & stop dates were not a factor as we had the serial numbers for the affected evaporators.

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.

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:
“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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.

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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.

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.

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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.

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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.

“See Carrier Recall 11E-003”

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.

April 14 – 19, 2011: Notify dealers regarding recall requesting end-user contact information

May 23, 2011: Submit Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility Report & Sample letter for approval

June 15, 2011: Notify end-users/purchasers of recall – One issue with implementing recall is that as after-market installers, we do not have access to end-user information & obtaining it is difficult especially as some of our customers are no longer operating

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) or by E-Mail to RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.