

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports<sup>1</sup>**

On May 30, 2011, Corp. Micro Bird inc. decided that a noncompliance 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: June 3, 2011

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 11-045-EHU

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.

Corporation Micro Bird Inc.

(agent) Kathleen Gaines, 4701 Military Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14305, USA

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

François Lafond, Product Engineering Director

Telephone Number: 819 477-2012 ext. 463 Fax No.: 819 477-1848

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Valérie Fortin

Regulations and Standards Technician

Signed:

Valérie Fortin

<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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):** Girardin **Model Years Involved:** 2006-2010 **Model(s):** G5

**Production Dates: Beginning:** February 2006 **Ending:** September 30, 2009

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Type:** School bus **Bodystyle:** G5 Flat floor

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

The vehicle is a flat floor constructed upon a Ford cutaway chassis. The OEM cutaway wiring harness pass just rearward of the driver seat between the B pillar and the raised floor.

---

**Make(s):** Micro Bird **Model Years Involved:** 2010-2011 **Model(s):** G5

**Production Dates: Beginning:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 **Ending:** May 30, 2011

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Type:** School bus **Bodystyle:** G5 Flat floor

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

The vehicle is a flat floor constructed upon a Ford cutaway chassis. The OEM cutaway wiring harness pass just rearward of the driver seat between the B pillar and the raised floor.

---

**Make(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model Years Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Production Dates: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Type:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Bodystyle:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

---

**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. 23 %**

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

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

<b>Model</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</b>
G5	2006	33
G5	2007	6
G5	2008	16
G5	2009	13
G5	2010	46
G5	2011	29

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 143

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:** 90 %

**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 problem is due to the floor configuration on the G5 flat floor model constructed upon a Ford cutaway chassis. All G5 (from the starting point of this body model in 2006) constructed upon a Ford cutaway chassis with a flat floor have been targeted.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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 raised floor just rearward of the driver's seat is trapping the OEM wiring harness. This situation can cause the wires to rub against the metal floor molding, damaging the wire insulation and causing an electrical short which can lead to a fire.

---

---

---

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

The configuration of the floor just rearward of the driver's seat can cause the OEM wiring to rub against the metal floor molding.

---

---

---

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

The OEM wiring insulation can get damaged and in case of electrical short, it can catch fire.

---

---

---

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

N/A

---

---

**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.**

On May 30, 2011 we were advised that a bus caught fire. The fire originated from the wiring just rearward of the driver's seat. After investigation, we have determined that this situation occurred due to the worn state of the wiring insulation caused by the rubbing against the raised metal floor molding.

**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.**

Parts to perform the recall (if necessary) & 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.**

Recall condition: wiring harness trapped between the raised floor and the B pillar.

Remedy: floor cut-out rearward of the driver's seat to allow more space for the wiring harness and secure the harness to protect against vibration.

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

Recall component: wires trapped between the raised floor and the B pillar rearward of the driver's seat.

Remedy component: rearward driver's floor cutted-out, more space for wiring harness, secured wiring harness.

**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.**

Once the cause of the fire was discover, we immediately stopped the current floor design and applied the same remedy on the production line than for the recall.

#### **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 all dealers and customer by July 15, 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) or by E-Mail to [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto: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.**