

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

On **August 9, 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: August 12, 2011

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 11-046-8WU

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

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

Production Dates: Beginning: October 1st, 2009 **Ending:** March 16, 2011

VIN Range: Beginning: : _____ **Ending:** _____

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

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

Production Dates: Beginning: October 1st, 2009 **Ending:** March 16, 2011

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: School bus **Bodystyle:** MBII

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

The 8 way flashing light wiring harness is 16 AWG with no control relay.

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. 87 %

II. Identify the Recall Population

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

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u>
MBII	2010	69
MBII	2011	10
G5	2010	418
G5	2011	174

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 671

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:

The 16 AWG 8 way flashing light wiring harness has been identified to be the cause of the overheating. This wiring harness has been installed since October 2009 at the time a new printed circuit board was installed in all school buses. All school buses equipped with an 8 way halogen flashing light system and 16 AWG wiring harness (part 27D0284) 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 wire on the 8 way power circuit is too small causing the terminal connection to overheat.

If the connection fails, the 8-way system will stop working.

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

With regards to the current draw of this circuit, wire gauge must be 14 AWG. 16 AWG is too small.

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

8 way system could stop working.

In absence of warning a vehicule approaching a school bus loading or unloading children may not stop. This situation could cause injury or death of a passenger.

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.

In February 2011, our Service and warranty department has been advised of vibration issue in regards of the stop arm. This situation occurred only when the stop arm was activated with the ignition in the off position. After many tries to resolve this issue we decided to replace the 16 AWG wire between the printed circuit board and the 8 way "Master" switch by a 14 AWG wire. The wire has been change in production to prevent this inconvenient.

On August 3rd, 2011, Service and warranty department was advised of an over heating issue at the 8 way connectors. On August 8, when the plant reopened, investigations were done to identify the cause of this issue. It has been difficult to recreate the problem since this situation occurs only when the 8 way flashing lights are functioning many times a day for a long period.

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 will be provided to end users & 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: 8 way flashing lights 16 AWG wiring harness

Remedy: Added 14 AWG wiring harness with control relay on the power circuit

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

Recall component: 16 AWG wiring harness with no control relay

Remedy component: 14 AWG wiring harness with control relay.

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 defective 8 way flashing lights was discovered, we immediately stopped to install the part at issue and replace it by a new one.

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 customers by the end of September 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 for review prior to mailing.

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