

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

**On December 15, 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:** December 21, 2011

**Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):** 11-049-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.**

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:**

<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):** Micro Bird **Model Years Involved:** 2009-2012 **Model(s):** G5

**Production Dates: Beginning:** November 24, 2009 **Ending:** December 3, 2011

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

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

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

There are 3 transverse joints on the interior ceiling panel approximately at the longitudinal center line of the bus compartment.

---

**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. 64 % of US school bus**

**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	2009	10
G5	2010	500
G5	2011	628
G5	2012	89

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1227

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

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:

All vehicles that have a transverse joint on the interior ceiling roof approximately at the longitudinal center line 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 joint in the ceiling metal panel fails to comply with FMVSS 221 Joint strength requirements

---

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

The hemming on both ceiling metal panels are too wide. Due to the width of the hemming, the adhesive has been applied on the hemming instead of to the flat portion of the ceiling metal panel. When a tension is applied on both side of the joint, the metal sheet unrolls at the hemming instead of shearing and separating at the joint.

---

---

---

---

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

In the event of a crash, there is a slight possibility that the ceiling metal panel separates from the interior compartment structure and cause injury to 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:**

---

**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 November 11, 2011, we were advised by the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance (OVSC) that a body panel joint in a bus under investigation failed to comply with FMVSS 221. The cause of the non compliance was undetermined at that time. The joint in question is installed with rivets and adhesive. At first sight, there was no reason for this joint not to be compliant. On November 18, 2011 we received additional documents (pictures) from OVSC regarding the joint in question. After further investigation on our side, the analysis of the pictures and additional verifications revealed that the size of the hemming and the location of the glue have altered the joint strength of these panels. To correct the situation, a metal junction

plate with a narrow hemming on both sides has been developed to cover the non compliant ceiling joint. On December 15, this remedy has been successfully tested at OVSC.

### **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 and Service bulletin to perform the recall will be provided to end users & labor will be reimbursed upon receipt of the reply sheet. The reimbursement 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: forward ceiling panel with a large hemming

---

Remedy condition: metal trim with small hemming on both sides installed over the ceiling panel joint. with glue and rivets.

---

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

Recalled component: visible ceiling panel joint on the longitudinal centerline of the vehicle

Remedy component: ceiling body panel covered by a metal trim hemmed on both sides

---

**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.**

On December 5th, 2011, a metal plate junction has been installed over all transverse ceiling metal panel joint.

---

---

---

#### **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.**

Parts required to perform the recall will be available by mid February and dealers and final owners will be notified at that time.

---

---

#### **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.**