

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 14V-622

**Manufacturer Name :** Corp. Micro Bird Inc.

**Submission Date :** APR 26, 2016

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 14V-622

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 14-058-RIU



## Manufacturer Information :

## Population :

Manufacturer Name : Corp. Micro Bird Inc.

Address : 3000, Rue Girardin

Drumondville, Quebec 00 J2E 0A1

Company phone : 819-477-2012

Number of potentially involved : 7

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

## Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2006-2014 Micro Bird MBII & G5

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Non-School Bus / Transit Bus equipped with Ricon DOT Public Use "S" 2000 and 5000 Series lifts manufactured after January 1, 2006 equipped with platforms measuring 32"x51" and 34"x54". The affected population is comprised of 6 primary model numbers.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2006 - JAN 09, 2014

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

## Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The wheelchair lift platform from can exhibit cracking while in stowed position.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In the event the aforementioned crack occurs on both sides of the platform and is allowed to propagate to the point of material separation on both sides it is possible for the lift platform to lean against the vehicle lift door(s) and fall out of the vehicle when the door(s) is opened putting the lift operator at risk. It is not believed that cracking of the platform side plate poses a safety hazard for lift occupants. Field observations indicate that the subject failure is precipitated by cracking that propagates from the bottom of the stowed platform. When the lift is deployed and loaded normally, the load experienced by the area adjacent to the point of crack initiation is primarily compressive. Accordingly, the crack will not propagate when the platform is loaded . Moreover, in the event the crack propagates all the way through the

compressive zone and into the tensile zone, the amount of material loaded in tension required to support the rated load on the platform is less than 10% of the total height of the side plate. Further, as the construction of the joint between the side plate and the vertical arm is redundant (present on both sides of the lift). A complete separation of the side plate on one side of the lift does not result in a catastrophic failure of the platform.

Given the aforementioned, it is believed that separation is considerably more likely to occur while the platform is stowed than during normal operation.

Ricon believes that the aforementioned mechanism accounts for why there have been no reported failures of occupied platforms.

**Description of the Cause :** Though the root cause is not known, analysis of failed components indicates the aforementioned cracks are the result of high load, low cycle fatigue occurring in the stowed position. Ricon believes that the excitation frequency found in vehicles of the type referenced above combined with a variety of other factors including but not necessarily limited to a drifting hydraulic system, a poorly adjusted or non-functional stow lock, bent vertical arms and/or a low hydraulic fluid level precipitate the conditions under which the lift side plates may crack.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** Cracks are visible and can be detected during routine checks outlined in the maintenance manual.

In the event separation occurs on one side of the platform, the platform will sag to one side increasing the likelihood that the issue will be perceived by the operator. Moreover, in the unlikely event that the operator does not notice the separation when the unit is deployed, the separated side will most likely not operate properly upon stow causing the unit to jam.

In the event separation occurs on both sides and the lift platform leans inboard against the interlocked occupant restraint belt and will not deploy. In the event separation occurs on both sides and the lift platform leans outboard against the door, it will likely bounce against the door causing abnormal noise detectable by the driver.

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : Ricon Corp.

Address : 1135, Aviation Place  
San Fernando CALIFORNIA 91340

Country : United States

## Chronology :

Micro Bird received a safety recall notification on September 18, 2014 from Ricon.

Micro Bird didn't receive any reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities or warranty claims.

## Description of Remedy :

**Description of Remedy Program :** Ricon will supply a supplemental platform support bumper kit at no charge. The bumpers are fitted to the upper parallel arms and engage the sides of the platform when it is fully stowed. By limiting the amplitude through which the platform is allowed to oscillate, the load transferred through the structure at the pivot plate is significantly reduced such that mechanism that precipitates the cracks cannot occur.

Any platforms wherein a crack has begun to propagate, Ricon will replace the platform

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** Any unit in the field that is not cracked is acceptable to use. The aforementioned bumper kit is recommended to ensure that the platform pivot plates do not crack in the future.

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** Platforms on new construction will be made from higher strength steel and will not require the bumper kit.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** Dealer will be notify by October 20 and End User By October 31 2014.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** NR - NR

**Planned Owner Notification Date :** NR - NR

\* NR - Not Reported