



03V-365

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

On September 15, 2003, Beam's Industries Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209) 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: September 25, 2003

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):

Girardin Minibus Inc. # 03-005-SB for reference only  
NHTSA recall # 03E-046

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.

Girardin Minibus Inc.

Belt supplier: Beam's Industries Inc., 10519 S. Sunny Lane, Oklahoma City, OK 73160

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

Luc Guillemette

After sales & service manager (Girardin Minibus Inc.)

Telephone Number: (819)477-8222 Fax No.: (819)477-1848

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Luc Guillemette  
After sales & service manager

Signed:

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NVS-215  
2003 OCT -3 A 8 48  
OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

<sup>1</sup> Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, 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 Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

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**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:** 2003 **Model(s):** MBII & MBIV School bus

**Production Dates: Beginning:** August 25, 2003 **Ending:** September 17, 2003

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

**Vehicle Type:** Ford E-350 & E-450, GM 3500 **Bodystyle:** School Bus

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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**II. Identify the Recall Population**

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

<b>Vehicles Model</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Potentially Involved</b>
MB-II School bus body	2003	7
MB-IV School bus body	2003	39

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 46

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: maximum 12 vehicles for 26%**

**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:**

On September 15, 2003 we received an e-mail from Beam's Industries Inc. saying that there is a recall on 150 seat belts we have received from them (tag number 33793) on August 25, 2003. We have located the belts still not installed (quantity 72). We have checked 34 vehicles that were not delivered yet and have replaced the belts in 8 of these vehicles for 60 belts replaced. The other 12 vehicles were delivered to dealers or final customers so they have to be verified and the belts replaced if they are equipped with the belts involved in the recall (tag 33793). In the vehicles delivered to the United States, Beam's Industries is looking for 13 belts. In Canada, we have found 5 belts potentially affected by the recall. We have listed all the vehicles manufactured between August 25 and September 17, 2003.

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**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.**

Female buckle of the passenger abdominal seat belt identified with tag number 33793.

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

See Beam's Industries report for more details.

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

Female buckle of the passenger abdominal seat belt may break in case of high tension (accident).

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

None

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

Beam's Industries Inc.

10519 S. Sunnyslane

Oklahoma City, OK

73160

**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:**

Ted Merritt, Vice President of Beam's Industries Inc., Tel: (405) 793-0505

**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 September 15, 2003: we received an e-mail from Mr. John Ware, Account manager at Beam's Industries saying there is a recall on 150 seat belts with tag # 33793.

**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.**

See Beam's Industries report for more details.

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**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.**

Replace the female part of the seat belt. The recall will be conducted by Beam's Industries Inc. directly. See there report for more details.

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**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.**

Replace the female part of the passenger abdominal seat belt.

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

The belt tag number will be different.

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**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.**

We have received an e-mail from Beam's Industries on September 15, 2003. We have removed the seat belts from inventory and replaced the belts in minibuses in stock by September 23, 2003. The other 13 seat belts are in 12 minibuses already delivered. On September 24, 2003 we have supplied to Beam's Industries the list of dealers (name, address & phone number) of the vehicles not sold yet and the list of final customers (name, address & phone number) of the other minibuses. You will find enclosed a list of the involved vehicles.

#### **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.**

Beam's Industries Inc. will conduct the recall. See their report for more details.

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## 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) for review prior to mailing.*

### See the enclosed documents:

- > List of all the vehicles verified
- > List of the vehicles to verify
- > E-mail from Beam's Industries Inc.

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

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DATE: 3/10/02

RECALL CAMPAIGN REPORT

PAGE: 1  
REPORT ID: LM211G

CAMPAIGN#: 03-005-8B BUCKLES ON SEAT BELT MAY NOT MEET STRENGTH REQUIREM DATE: 3/09/24

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STOCK CHASSIS SERIAL NO. MODEL SOLD OR FINAL CUSTOMER M/O AGY

STOCK	CHASSIS SERIAL NO.	MODEL	SOLD OR FINAL CUSTOMER	M/O AGY
<b>DEALER: LEONARD BUS SALES INC. FOUR LEONARD WAY</b>				
0323077	1FDSE3573JHB45807	FDD 138 SRW SC 4RM NLD 24	3/02/12	PJ40 = checked at Girardin Minilows
0323079	1FDSE3573JHB45809	FDD 138 SRW SC 4RM NLD 24	3/03/20	PJ40
0323137	1FDSE3573JHB79455	FDD 138 SRW SC 4RM NLD 24	3/04/02	PJ40
0324358	1FDSE4574JHB77591	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/05/22	PJ40
0324359	1FDSE4574JHB77592	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/06/26	PJ40
0324360	1FDSE4576JHB77593	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/06/26	PJ40
0324361	1FDSE4579JHB77594	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/06/27	PJ40
0324362	1FDSE4573JHB77595	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/06/27	PJ40
0324363	1FDSE4521JHB77596	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/06/27	PJ40
0324409	1FDSE4575JHB52068	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/05/13	PJ40
0324426	1FDSE4575JHB52083	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/03/24	PJ40
0324430	1FDSE4573JHB52089	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/04/10	PJ40
0324471	1FDSE4579JHB52098	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/04/10	PJ40
0324862	1GBRG31U231233755	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/04/25	PJ40
0324865	1GBRG31U031236718	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/04/25	PJ40
<b>DEALER: RAMP TRANSPORTATION CO., INC. P.O. BOX 437 1595 ROUTE 112 PORT JEFFERSON ST. NY</b>				
0323098	1FDSE3573JHB79449	FDD 138 SRW SC 4RM NLD 24	3/03/06	PJ40
0323102	1FDSE3573JHB79450	FDD 138 SRW SC 4RM NLD 24	3/03/06	PJ40
0323139	1FDSE3573JHB54258	FDD 138 SRW SC 4RM NLD 24	3/06/12	PJ40
<b>DEALER: TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES INC. 1407 SOUTH POINT ROAD GREEN BAY WI</b>				
0324442	1FDSE4572JHB52061	FDD 150 DRW SB SFL NLD 24	3/05/22	LAMERS BUS LINES INC 2407 SOUTH POINT ROAD GR
<b>DEALER: WESTERN BUS SALES INC. 13475 S.E. HWY 212 CLACKAMAS OR</b>				
0224044	1FDSE3572KAZ0997	FDD 138 DRW SB SRW NLD 24	3/06/23	PJ40
<b>DEALER: A.Z. BUS SALES INC. 1900 SOUTH RIVERSIDE AVENUE P.O. BOX 700 COLTON CA</b>				
0328023	1GBRG31U631221592	GMC 6.0L 139 DRW SC SRW N	3/02/25	
<b>DEALER: AUTO SAFETY HOUSE 2610 N. BUCKEYE RD. PHOENIX AZ</b>				
0321087	1GBRG31U331164260	GMC 6.0L 139 DRW SC SRW N	3/05/02	COURTESY CHEVROLET 1233 E CAMELBACK RD PH
0328258	1GBRG31U031118626	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328106	1GBRG31U031237317	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328311	1GBRG31U031236984	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328312	1GBRG31U0312378101	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328313	1GBRG31U031237171	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328314	1GBRG31U031238436	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328316	1GBRG31U031238413	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328317	1GBRG31U731237522	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	TEX NAVAJO NATION PO BOX 9000 WI PJ40
0328321	1GBRG31U331237653	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	TEX NAVAJO NATION PO BOX 9000 WI PJ40
0328325	1GBRG31U231237588	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328326	1GBRG31U711238814	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40
0328328	1GBRG31U531237024	GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB SFL N	3/05/29	PJ40

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DATE: 3/10/02

RECALL CAMPAIGN REPORT

PAGE: 2  
REPORT ID: LA201G

CAMPAIGN: 03-005-58 BUCKLES ON BEAM'S SEAT BELTS MAY NOT MEET STRENGTH REQUIRE DATE: 3/09/24

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STOCK	CHASSIS SERIAL NO. MODEL	SOLD ON FINAL CUSTOMER	M/O A01
DEALER: WATERS TRUCK & TRACTOR CO. INC. HIGHWAY 82 BYPASS PLYMOUTH RD P.O. BOX 811 COLUMBUS MS			
0324413	1FDK845P73HB52072 FDD 158 DRW 5K PFL RLD 24	3/05/27	PJ40
DEALER: FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION 7793 INDUSTRIAL LANE TAMPA FL			
0324043	1FDWE15F72HB85367 FDD 138 DRW SC 4RW MLD 24	3/06/20	PJ40
0324044	1FDWE15F93HB85368 FDD 138 DRW SC 4RW MLD 24	3/06/20	PJ40
DEALER: SCHMITTY AND SONG 21160 HOLYOKE AVENUE LAKEVILLE MN			
0321008	1G8GG110031154893 GMC 6.0L 139 DRW SC 5RW N	3/06/02	PJ40
0321009	1G8GG110031164367 GMC 6.0L 139 DRW SC 5RW N	3/06/02 TALL TIMBERS LEASING LLC	22750 PILLSBURY AVENUE IA
0321010	1G8GG110431164484 GMC 6.0L 139 DRW SC 5RW N	3/06/02 TALL TIMBERS LEASING LLC	22760 PILLSBURY AVENUE IA
0321011	1G8GG110931164229 GMC 6.0L 139 DRW SC 5RW N	3/06/02 TALL TIMBERS LEASING LLC	22750 PILLSBURY AVENUE IA
0321033	1G8GG110931154840 GMC 6.0L 139 DRW SC 5RW N	3/06/02	PJ40
0328272	1G8JG310231119805 GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB 8FL N	3/06/02	
0328273	1G8JG3105311120785 GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB PFL R	3/06/02 TALL TIMBERS LEASING LLC	22750 PILLSBURY AVENUE IA
0328274	1G8JG3107311121307 GMC 6.0L 159 DRW SB PFL R	3/06/02 TALL TIMBERS LEASING LLC	22750 PILLSBURY AVENUE IA
DEALER: CLASSIC CHEVROLET INC. 1101 HIGH WAY FH 114 GRAPES VINE TN			
0321028	1G8GG31UX31165171 GMC 6.0L 139 DRW SC 4RW N	3/07/23	PJ40

46 vehicles potentially involved  
 34 vehicles checked at Girardin Minibus (PJ40)  
 12 vehicles to be checked (see the list given to Beam's Industries).

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US involved vehicles

## BEAM'S INDUSTRIES SEAT BELT RECALL

Girardin Minibus Inc.

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	Company Name Address City, State ZIP Phone	Date	Dealer Name Address City, State ZIP Phone	Date	Plant	VIN
1	Auto Safety House 2830 W. Buckeye Road Phoenix, AZ 85036 Phone: 602-278-3916	August 28, 2003	Courtesy Chevrolet 1233 E. Camelback Road Phoenix, AZ 85014 Phone: 602-279-3232	September 2, 2003	03-21087	1GBHG31V331184280
2	A.Z. Bus Sales 1900 South Riverside Ave Colton, CA 92324 Phone: 714-781-7188	September 1, 2003	Not sold yet	Not delivered yet	03-28021	1GBJG31U831221582
3	Schmitz & Sons 21160 Holyoke Avenue Laksville, MN 55044 Phone: 952-469-2256	September 4, 2003	Tall Timbers Leasing LLC 22750 Pillsbury Avenue Laksville, MN 55044 Phone: 952-885-7637	September 9, 2003	03-21009	1GBHG31U031164387
4		September 4, 2003		September 9, 2003	03-21010	1GBHG31U431164484
5		September 4, 2003		September 9, 2003	03-21011	1GBHG31U931166229
6	Schmitz & Sons 21160 Holyoke Avenue Laksville, MN 55044 Phone: 952-469-2256	September 14, 2003	Not sold yet	Not delivered yet	03-28272	1GBJG31U231119805
7		September 8, 2003	Not sold yet	Not delivered yet	03-28273	1GBJG31U531120795
8		September 8, 2003	Not sold yet	Not delivered yet	03-28274	1GBJG31U731121307
9	Leonard Bus Sales 4 Leonard Way Deposit, NY 13754 Phone: 607-467-3100	September 13, 2003	Not sold yet	Not delivered yet	03-28335	1GBJG31U031236718
10		September 13, 2003	Not sold yet	Not delivered yet	03-24430	1FDXE45F23HB52089
11	Ramp Transportation Inc. 1595 Route 112 Port Jefferson St, NY 11776 Phone: 516-473-8000	September 8, 2003	Not sold yet	Not delivered yet	03-23099	1FDSE35FX3HB79450
12	Transportation Vehicles Inc. 2407 South Point Road Green Bay, WI 54313 Phone: 920-496-5080	August 28, 2003	Larners Bus Lines 2407 South Point Road Green Bay, WI 54313 Phone: 920-496-3800	September 5, 2003	03-24402	1FDXE45F23HB52081

September 24, 2003

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-----Message d'origine-----

De : John Ware [mailto:johnware@beamsind.com]

Envoyé : 15 septembre, 2003 10:22

À : a.sanneville@girardin.com

Objet : Beam's Seatbelt recall

Importance : Haute

Amelle - We have found a small percentage of non-conforming buckles that we sent to you. We have determined it is best to replace these with another push button seatbelt as quickly as possible under NHTSA recall safety program. The information you need to know is as follows:

Part No.	Purchase Order Number	Quantity
Number on tag of Belt	Date shipped to Girardin	
1324-54-R90MA	36023	150
33793	August 18	

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience to your company. We will replace this product as quickly as possible at no charge to Girardin. We will expedite the shipment to you. Please return this product to Beam's freight collect with Return Authorization Number 794.

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John Ware, Account Manager

Beam's Industries, Inc.

Ph 405.793.0505

Fx 405.793.1801

[johnware@beamsind.com](mailto:johnware@beamsind.com)

ISO 9001:2000 Certified

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