

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

On August 20th, 2013 Micro Bird Corp. 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: September 6th, 2013

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 13-054-JTU

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 Rd, 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.

Nadia James, Standards & Regulations Technician

Signed:

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: **2013** Model(s): **G5**

Production Dates: Beginning: **2013, April 29th** Ending: **2013, July 4th**

VIN Range: Beginning: **N/A** Ending: **N/A**

Vehicle Type: **Bus** Bodystyle: **G5**

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

These specific vehicles have passed through this working station during the evening shift, which operate at a very low speed and always with the same employee. All the other vehicles have been assembled during the day shift. This employee did not apply the glue properly inside the extrusion; therefore it compromises FMVSS 221 regulations.

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. **100%**

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>
G5	2013	14

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: **14**

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:

After we found one defective vehicle, we have identified, in our database, which vehicles had been assembled by this employee since he was affected to this work station. From that list, we have audited the vehicles that were still at the plant and conducted an internal investigation with this employee. All those vehicles still at the plant had the same non-compliance. We have also audited a number of vehicles assembled by all the other employees affected to this work station in both shifts. None of them had this non-compliance.

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.

There is no glue inside the extrusion to retain the ceiling panel in place. Even if the panel will not move, due to the fact it is squeeze in place, that doesn't meet FMVSS 221 regulation.

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:

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.

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 August 20, Micro Bird noticed that some vehicle assembled on the evening shift may be subject of a non-compliance regarding the FMVSS 221 joint strength requirement because no glue has been apply on the extrusion of the ceiling panel.

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.

In production, we have to apply the glue on the extrusion and then clip the panel in place. The glue is then squeezed in between the panel and the extrusion. For the rework, will push the panel against the extrusion, riveted it through the extrusion at every 6 inch and add glue inside the extrusion channel to recreate the same effect.

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

Normally, you will not see the glue, because it is in between the ceiling panel and the extrusion. After the rework, you will see additional rivets, which are used to create an adequate space to inject the proper amount of glue to stick the ceiling panel in place.

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.

The problem occurred only during the evening shift when this type of vehicles, which required this specific process, was produced with that employee. This is why it is such a limited quantity within that period of time.

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.

There is no part to be created. The rework procedure has been tried and we will be able to have it fully documented within two weeks. It is just a matter to get the result from an independent laboratory to fully support our solution and then send the proper equipment to each dealer to apply the rivets and the glue. Therefore, the reworked will start within a month or less. Dealer and end customers will be noticed before September 27th.

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.