
 <p>DOT Auto Safety Hotline Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire To Report Vehicle Safety Defects 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236) INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline</p>		FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148	
		Date Received 18-APR-2007	Repository <input type="checkbox"/> Reference No. 10188269
<p align="center">OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)</p>			
Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Address		E-mail Address	
City TUCSON	State AZ	Zip Code	
Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO In the absence of a signature, provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.		Signature of Owner Date 12/25/07	
<p align="center">VEHICLE INFORMATION</p>			
17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side 1BABHC0A64		Make BLUE BIRD	Model ALL AMERICAN
Model Year 2004		Date Purchased 07-OCT-03	Dealer's Name and Telephone Number <i>Auto Safety House 520-889-9551</i>
Engine: No: Cylinders 6		Fuel Type: Diesel	
Original Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dealer's City <i>Tucson</i>	State <i>AZ</i>	Zip Code <i>85714</i>
Transmission Type AUTOMATIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antilock Brakes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cruise Control	Powertrain REAR WHEEL DRIVE	Vehicle Component Code 105000 POWER TRAIN:DRIVELINE
Multiple Failure: 1			
<p align="center">FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION</p>			
Incident Date(s) 16-APR-2007	Failure Mileage 36500	Failure Speed <i>0</i>	
<p align="center">ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE</p>			
Tire Make	Tire Model (Name or Number)		Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Prior Repair	Failure Location:	
Tire Component Code		Tire Failure Type	
<p align="center">ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE</p>			
Make:	Date Manufactured:	Model No./Name:	
Seat Type:	Installation System:		
Child Seat Component Code:	Failed Part:		
<p align="center">APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION (Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and injury(ies).)</p>			
Crash <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Persons Injured 0	Number of Deaths 0
Reported to Police N			
<p>Narrative Description of Incident(S), Crash(es), and Injury(ies). Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).</p>			
TL*THE SCHOOL BUS IS A 2004 BLUEBIRD A3FE. THE BUS WAS TAKEN TO THE CATERPILLAR DEALER BECAUSE OF A WARRANTY ISSUE ON THE ENGINE. THEY STATED THAT WHEN THE DRIVELINE ON THE TRANSMISSION WAS NOT WELDED PROPERLY. THEY STATED THE FOLLOWING TWO PARTS NEEDED TO BE REPLACED PART# 815782-5507 LOT # V 200303010307JLC PART# 905073-3306 LOT # V200303010311. THE ENGINE SIZE WAS UNAVAILABLE. THE CURRENT AND FAILURE MILEAGES WERE 36,500.			
Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice.		ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY	
The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.			





Sunnyside Unified School District
a proud learning community

Transportation / Garage
[REDACTED]

Tucson, Arizona [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my concern about the safety issue with the driveline problem on our school bus. Back in April 2007 we found that the driveline on one of our buses had been incorrectly manufactured at the factory. This driveline was the original one on the bus. The bus developed a problem with the engine and we sent it to the Caterpillar Dealer (Empire) for warranty diagnosis and repair. While diagnosing the problem Empire found that the driveline had spun.

This means that the tube and flange had turned within itself. The flange is fitted inside the tube and then welded. Both ends are set and timed in accordance to the specifications. On this occasion the welding had missed the spot that was to be welded and only welded the tube and not both the flange and tube.

Their mechanic removed the driveline and was going to send it out for repair when they called me. I instructed them to wait and that I wanted to see it before they did anything. I instructed them to re-install the drive line and that I would pick up the bus.

I called Canyon State Bus Sales in Phoenix, who is the Blue Bird Dealer and expressed my concern to the warranty representative. He instructed me to take it to Inland Kenworth in Tucson whom was the local warranty repair center for them. We took the bus to Inland and several days later they called and said that the driveline needed to be replaced or repaired and that it was not under warranty. I expressed my concern to them about the driveline not being manufactured properly, which could have grave consequences to any vehicle that may have had the same driveline. They still said it was not going to be covered and that there was nothing they could do.

My main concern was that the driveline having been made wrong could cause a vehicle to drop the driveline while on the road and cause an accident, which could injure or kill innocent people.

I have included the original notes that I made and I'm still concerned as to how many other drivelines in this batch are out there waiting to have an accident.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tucson AZ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5/3/07

The driveline from B-79 has original tags from the factory.
It gave me the lot # V200303010307, Spicer # JLC815782-5507
The other driveline V200303010311, Spicer # JLC905073-3306
Blue Bird # 216430

I called and tried to speak to someone at Dana Corp at 1-478-822-2052. which is parent of Spicer. I was forwarded around to many people. Some of the names that I jotted down were, Johny Nite, Ernie Lees, Mike Forbes, Jimmy Hobbie, Beth -----
----- . The last person whom I spoke to reffered me to Blue Bird.

When I tried Blue Bird it was to late and so I called Canyon State Bus Sales and I was sent to Inland Kenworth for them to look at the drive lines. They stated that it was out of warranty and it would cost me [REDACTED] to get new ones.

I called Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 and gave Shannon a claim report over the phone. Claim # 10188269.

I feel very strongly that this was a factory error when they built the units.
I have taken many pictures and some film. I need to get the vehicle back in service and I have taken the drivelines to 2 driveline shops. First I stopped and showed the drive line to the local bus dealer whom sold us the buses. The service manager agreed that he was concerned with the safety of the driveline in question.

[REDACTED]
Lead Mechanic

**THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS
DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED
TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED
INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY
PURSUANT TO EXAMPTION 6 OF
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).**