



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-026

Date Opened: 07/10/2006

Date Closed: 08/31/2006

Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka

Subject: Over Stressed Battery Cables

Manufacturer: Blue Bird Body Company
Products: Blue Bird 2004-2007 Vision Bus
Population: 7980

Problem Description: The terminal end of the battery power cable fails due to the battery cable being too short in length.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	4	4
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action: This investigation is closed. A safety defect campaign will be conducted by Bluebird (06V-261).

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 08/31/2006

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 08/31/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/31/2006

Summary: This investigation was opened after ODI was notified by the GSA Automotive Engineering Division that they have had three incidents where a battery cable terminal end failed. GSA reported the positive battery cable as being too short and being stressed during normal operation resulting in a complete separation. This could lead to an engine shut down or possibly a thermal event if the cable "shorts" to a ground source upon failure.

Bluebird has filed a safety defect to resolve the issue. The original cable will be removed and replaced with a longer battery cable. The ammeter shunt mounting will also be upgraded on all buses delivered through July 12, 2006.

This investigation is close.

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