



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-020
Date Opened: 04/19/2007
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Seat Track Corrosion

Manufacturer: Blue Bird Body Company
products: Bluebird 1999-2001 Conventional School Buses
population: 2000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Seat track corrosion may compromise the integrity of the seat anchorage points and the wheel chair securement hardware.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	0	3
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: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka *SM*

Date: 04/19/2007

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 04/19/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/19/2007

Summary: ODI was contacted by a school bus fleet that alleged that they had found numerous buses with severe seat track corrosion. The seat track is an aluminum track that is bolted to the floor of the bus. It provides a slotted channel into which each seat frame leg is bolted. The track also provides anchorage points for wheelchair securement. Both the seat and the wheel chair anchorage strength are covered by FMVSS 571.222.

Bluebird reported that during a certain time frame they were installing aluminum floor tracks that were not "anodized" and this could promote corrosion in certain geographical localities.

This PE is opened to further evaluate this issue and understand its severity and impact on school bus passenger safety.