



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-029

Date Opened: 06/05/2009

Date Closed: 08/28/2009

Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka

Subject: Sudden Loss Of Power Assist Steering

Manufacturer: Blue Bird Body Company

Products: Bluebird 2007-2009 Vision School Buses

Population: 9,117

Problem Description: Power steering reservoir gasket leaks resulting in increased steering effort.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	19	19	19
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 PE is closed. Blue Bird has submitted a Safety Defect Report. Recall Number 09V-284 has been assigned.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 08/28/2009

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd *MB*

Date: 08/28/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/28/2009

Summary:

This investigation was opened after ODI received six fleet complaints (19 buses total) alleging repeated issues of the power steering reservoir gasket failing. It was alleged that the degraded gasket fell into the power steering pump, resulting in an increased steering effort. ODI is aware of two buses that, without warning, lost power assist steering during normal driving operations.

Reportedly, the power steering gaskets were manufactured with incorrect material substituted by one of the gasket material suppliers. After an evaluation into this issue, blue bird authorized a safety recall. The original power steering lid gasket will be replaced with new gasket material.

The action taken by Blue Bird resolves the issues raised by this investigation. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.