



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 09-029
Date Opened: 06/05/2009
Principal Investigator: Sonny
Subject: Sudden Loss of Power Assist Steering

Manufacturer : Blue Bird Body Company
Products: Bluebird 2007-2009 Vision Transit/School Buses
Population: 2000 (Estimated)

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	14	0	14
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 to evaluate this issue.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary:

ODI has received six fleet complaints (14 buses total) alleging repeated issues of the power steering reservoir gasket failing. The degraded gasket falls into the power steering pump, resulting in increased steering effort. ODI is aware of two buses that, without warning, lost power assist steering during normal driving maneuvers.

This investigation is opened to further study this issue.