



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EQ 15-003
Prompted by: Safety Recalls 14V-313 and 14V-314
Date Opened: 03/16/2015
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Engine Thermostat Heater Hose Failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Blue Bird Body Company
Products: Cummins ISC07, ISC10 and ISL-G Engines
Population: 204,441 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The engine thermostat heater hose may rupture allowing in hot coolant to enter the passenger compartment.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is opened.

Summary:

In a letter dated June 11, 2014, Blue Bird Body Company (Blue Bird) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain Model Year (MY) 2008-2013 All American rear engine school buses manufactured April 3, 2007, to December 15, 2012. During high engine RPM, the thermostat installed in the Cummins, Inc. (Cummins) ISC07, ISC10 and ISL-G engines may cause a pulsation in the coolant flow. Over time, this pulsation could weaken the passenger compartment heater hose inner lining. The heater hose may rupture which could result in hot coolant entering the passenger compartment. This matter was assigned recall number 14V-313.

In a letter dated June 11, 2014, Blue Bird notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in MY 2008-2013 All American rear engine non-school buses manufactured May 9, 2007, to November 12, 2012. During high engine RPM, the thermostat installed in the Cummins ISC07, ISC10 and ISL-G engines may cause a pulsation in the coolant flow. Over time, this pulsation could weaken the passenger compartment heater hose inner lining. The heater hose may rupture which could result in hot coolant entering the passenger compartment. This matter was assigned recall number 14V-314.

Cummins provided NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying the manufacturers that may have incorporated these engines into their vehicles. However, at this time, a Part 573 Report has not been filed by all of these potentially affected manufacturers.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to the companies that purchased the Cummins SC07, ISC10 and ISL-G engines, notify the companies of Blue Bird's defect decisions and request similar defect decisions be made on their vehicle products or inform RMD why a safety defect decision is not appropriate on their vehicles.