

# **Lodal, Inc.**

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**Monday, April 6, 2015**

**US Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC. 20590  
ATTN: Jennifer Timian  
ATTN: Cynthia Glass**

**RE: EQ 15-003**

**Dear Ms. Timian & Ms Glass:**

**In response to the NHTSA inquiry EQ 15-003 received at our office March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

**The (2) Safety Recalls that are being discussed are 14V313 and 14V-314, Blue Bird Buses and Cummins engine company. Lodal has reviewed the correspondence and has consulted with our engine supplier, Cummins, and respectfully submit the following response.**

**Lodal is a garbage truck manufacturer, and Cummins engine company is an engine supplier to Lodal. It appears that Lodal received this inquiry from NHTSA because Cummins has listed Lodal and a “buyer” of Cummins engine models listed in the (2) recalls in question.**

**The specific failure that is the subject of the recalls is the failure of a “hot” coolant hose that is routed through the passenger compartment of a transit or school bus, to a heater unit that provides climate control for the bus’s passenger compartment. The failure has the potential to “leak or spray” hot coolant into the passenger compartment putting passengers at a potential risk.**

**Based on the information in the (2) recalls, the Blue Bird heater hose, and the thermostat in the Cummins engine have been identified as “suspect” in the Safety Recalls in Blue Bird Buses.**

Lodal's has consulted with our Cummins representative. It has been reported to Lodal that Cummins believes that this is a condition that exists in the design and layout of the heating system in Blue Bird Buses, and NOT a problem with all Cummins engines. Cummins does NOT recommend that the thermostats in Lodal vehicles need to be, or should be, changed out at this time.

The Lodal vehicle is very much different than the Blue Bird passenger bus. The Lodal vehicle has a (2) seats, and is operated by a single driver / picker, or (2) men, driver + picker.

The Lodal vehicle does not have long coolant lines routed though the passenger compartment, providing climate control to a large passenger compartment.

Most of the coolant lines on the Lodal vehicle our routed through the engine compartment, on the underside of the cab. There is a very short heater hose penetration into the interior of the cab, directly into the heater / defroster unit. The heater / defroster units is located under the vehicle dash.

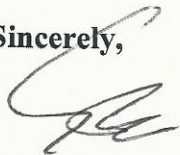
At this time, Lodal does not believe that there is a safety defect Lodal trucks related to EQ 15-003. We reach this conclusion for the following reasons:

1. Given the very significant differences between the Blue Bird bus, and the Lodal garbage truck, specifically the design and layout of the heating system..
2. A lack of service complaints / warranty history on Lodal vehicles related to heater hoses..

Lodal is committed to working with NHTSA to insure the safety of Lodal vehicles now and in the future.

Please contact me at (960) 779-1700, or [scott@lodal.com](mailto:scott@lodal.com) if I can be of any further assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



Scott Van Wolvelaere  
Plant Manager

Sent via e-mail  
Hard Copy sent via US-Mail, Certified