



BLUE BIRD

FAX

04V-153 ① of ③

Date: 03-26-04

To: Pat Wallace
NHTSA
202-366-7882

From: Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company
478-822-2242 PHONE
478-822-2467 FAX

Number of pages including cover: 3

If you do not receive the entire transmission, please call the above referenced number.

COMMENTS:

Pat,

You will find enclosed our 573 Defect Notification Report for Recall R04HR Incorrect Torque Application on Steering Component Clamps on Blue Bird Wanderlodge M380 and Blue Bird Express Coaches.

The originals are being mailed certified mail to Mr. Weinstein today.

If you have any questions, give me a call.

Thanks,

Bill Coleman

Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company

573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: March 26, 2004

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Blue Bird Wanderlodge
P. O. Box 937
Fort Valley, GA 31030

2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Blue Bird Wanderlodge 2003-2004 model year M380 Motor Coaches
and 2003-2004 model year Express 3500 and Express 4000 Transit Coaches

3. The total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect are:

98

4. The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is:

100%

5. The defect consist of:

Incorrect torque application may have been applied to the clamp bolts for the drag link, tie rod and torque rods which may result in either over or under torqued bolts. This can lead to the clamps becoming loose, causing motion between the mating parts. Over a period of time this could lead to misalignment of the steering/axles and ultimately component damage which could result in lack of driver control.

6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the defect.

First reported incident observed during vehicle testing at Bosch test track. Subsequent vehicle audits on coaches in process found incorrect torque application on 7 coaches checked. A stop delivery was initiated on March 19, 2004.

7. The defect will be corrected in the following manner:

Owners will be notified to contact their Wanderlodge Distributor or Wanderlodge Customer Service to schedule an appointment to have the clamp bolts replaced and properly torqued.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on March 31, 2004.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on April 07, 2004

9. Blue Bird's identification number assigned to this recall is:

R04HR

10. A draft copy of the notification documents will be submitted to NHTSA for review prior to mailing.

Questions regarding this recall should be directed to:

William P. Coleman
Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company
P.O. Box 937
Fort Valley GA 31030
(478) 822-2242

Signed:

William P. Coleman
William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator

573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

04V-153
Supplement

Report Date: March 26, 2004
Revised April 15, 2004

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Blue Bird Wanderlodge
P. O. Box 937
Fort Valley, GA 31030

2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Blue Bird Wanderlodge 2003-2004 model year M380 Motor Coaches
and 2003-2004 model year Express 3500 and Express 4000 Transit Coaches

3. The total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect are:

98

4. The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is:

100%

5. The defect consist of:

Incorrect torque application may have been applied to the clamp bolts for the drag link, tie rod and torque rods which may result in either over or under torqued bolts. This can lead to the clamps becoming loose, causing motion between the mating parts. Over a period of time this could lead to misalignment of the steering/axles and ultimately component damage which could result in lack of driver control.

6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the defect.

First reported incident observed during vehicle testing at Bosch test track and reported to Blue Bird on March 15, 2004. Subsequent vehicle audits on coaches in process found incorrect torque application on 7 coaches checked. A stop delivery was initiated on March 19, 2004.

7. The defect will be corrected in the following manner:

Owners will be notified to contact their Wanderlodge Distributor or Wanderlodge Customer Service to schedule an appointment to have the clamp bolts replaced and properly torqued.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on March 31, 2004.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on April 07, 2004

9. Blue Bird's identification number assigned to this recall is:

R04HR

10. A draft copy of the notification documents will be submitted to NHTSA for review prior to mailing.

Questions regarding this recall should be directed to:

William P. Coleman
Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company
P.O. Box 937
Fort Valley GA 31030
(478) 822-2242

Signed: _____

William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator