



RECEIVED
JUL-215

04V-341
(3 pages)

2004 JUL 19 A 10 59
OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

July 09, 2004

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street
Washington DC 20590

In accordance with the requirements of CFR 49 Part 573, Blue Bird Body Company is submitting the attached noncompliance report.

If you should have any questions concerning the information submitted, please contact me at 478-822-2242.

Respectfully,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator

Enclosure:
573 Notification for Recall R04HU FMVSS 121 Air Brake Systems Noncompliance

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting
Noncompliance Report**

Report Date: July 09, 2004

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

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

2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

All 2004 model year Blue Bird "Express" model coaches manufactured from July 07, 2003 through June 25, 2004.

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

48

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

100%

5. The noncompliance consist of:

A check valve, required by FMVSS No. 121, section 5.1.2.3, on the front brake service reservoir was omitted.

6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the noncompliance:

On June 30, 2004, Blue Bird Coachworks customer service was assisting an owner in troubleshooting a coach pneumatic kneeling system. The owner informed Customer Service that the front brake air gauge was dropping during the kneeling cycle. A Coachworks customer service representative traced the air system and found that potential backfeed existed from the front brake service reservoir to the wet supply reservoir.

On July 1, 2004, Blue Bird Coachworks initiated a review of the air brake system design on the Express Coach.

On July 2, 2004, Blue Bird Coachworks determined that the design was in error and did not meet the requirements of FMVSS 121 Air Brake Systems, section 5.1.2.3. A "Stop Delivery" notification was issued for all coaches on premises.

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

The required check valve will be added to the front air brake service reservoir to insure compliance with FMVSS 121, section 5.1.2.3.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on August 02, 2004.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on August 09, 2004.

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R04HU

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, Recall Administrator