

04V-486

September 21, 2004

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Body Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exist in certain Blue Bird model buses. In the event of a crash, the wheelchair could possibly be unsecured resulting in injury to the wheelchair passenger. Affected models are identified below.

2004-2005 model year Blue Bird All American school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from February 12, 2004 through May 05, 2004.

2001-2003 model year Blue Bird TC/2000 school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from June 13, 2001 through December 02, 2002

2002-2004 model year Blue Bird Micro Bird school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from May 02, 2002 through July 27, 2004.

2004-2005 model year Blue Bird "Vision" conventional model school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from September 11, 2003 through March 17, 2004.

2001-2004 model year Blue Bird Conventional model school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from March 28, 2001 through August 13, 2004.

1999-2004 model year Blue Bird Commercial Series model non-school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from February 17, 1999 through June 29, 2004.

The Sure-Lok component defect places the wheelchair securement retractor sprocket assembly out of alignment, causing the load pawl to not fully seat in the retractor sprocket teeth. In the event the sprockets are not aligned properly the wheelchair may not be secured during a crash. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

All Sure-Lok retractable wheelchair tie-down assemblies must be inspected for this potential condition. See attached Sure-Lok Safety Bulletin inspection procedures.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R04JB are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the yellow reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

If the modifications/repair directed by this modification was performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification you are eligible for reimbursement. Complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attached a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the pink self-addressed postage paid envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 SEVENTH STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

or you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

**Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator
BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**