

04V-426

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2004
TO: U.S. DISTRIBUTORS
**SUBJECT: RECALL R04JB SURE-LOK WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT
RETRACTOR RECALL**

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 determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Blue Bird Model Buses 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.

Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect. Buses with the defect must be inspected and, if needed, corrected according to the instructions provided with recall R04JB, copy attached.

If our records indicate affected units were delivered in your service area, a printout identifying affected units is enclosed. Distributors should verify correct owners and that complete shipping addresses are provided for each listed vehicle. If you have in your possession or have sold a vehicle that was purchased from another distributor that may be affected by this recall, please notify me at 478-822-2242.

Important: Distributors must inspect any inventory in their parts department. Attached is a list of the affected Sure-Lok part numbers. Contact Sure-Lok, Inc. for replacement of any defective retractors found.

If you have sold Sure-Lok wheelchair securement systems with affected retractors through your parts outlet, we will need to notify those owners as well. A list of customer names and addresses to which these systems were sold should be provided to the Blue Bird Recall Administrator within 10 days from receipt of this notification.

Warranty applications may be submitted to Blue Bird VIA BBOND (use CBCLAIM in the warranty menu).

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

Distributors are reminded of their responsibilities under section 154 of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1991. Dealers are required to complete modifications/repairs on units in their inventory before delivering to the final owner. Reference Blue Bird Body Company Distributor Memo No. 42-92.

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

Thank you,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator

Recall R04JB
Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement Retractor Recall

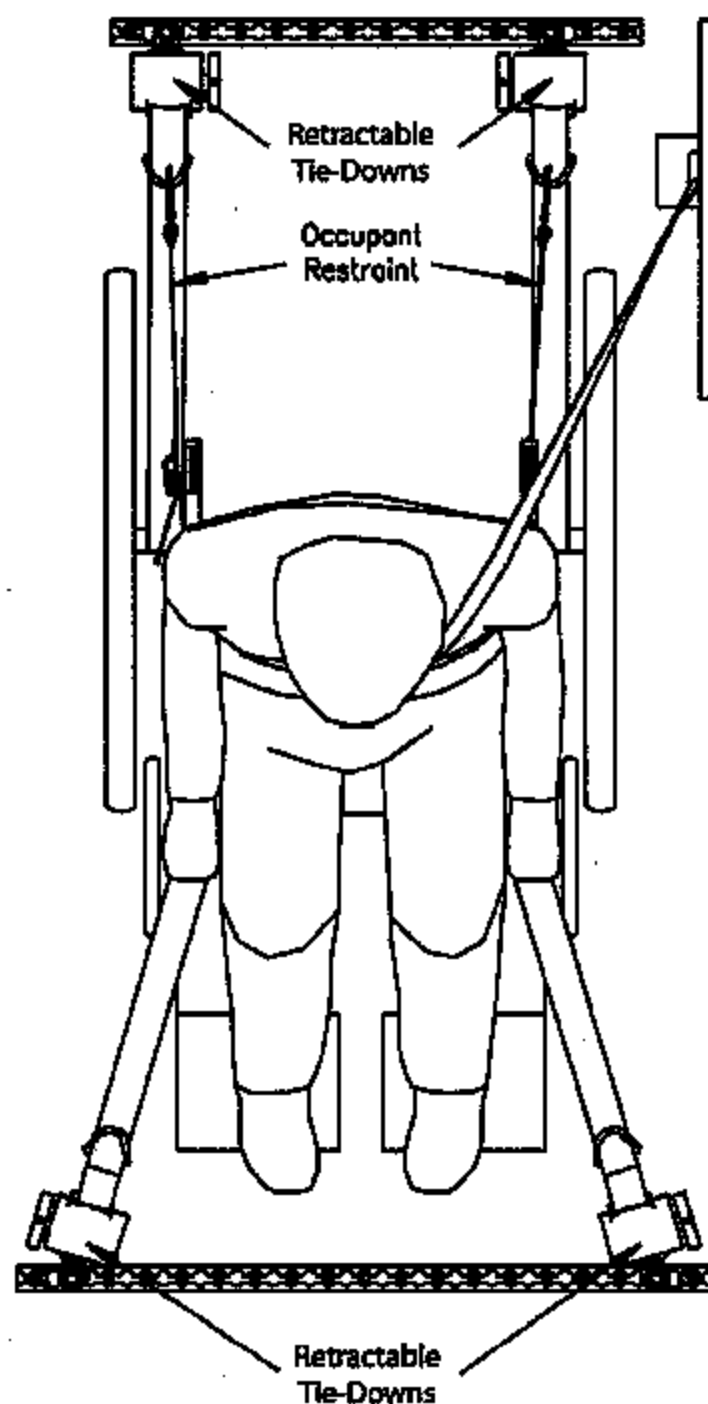
The following Sure-Lok part numbers are affected by recall R04JB. Wheelchair securement systems sold through your parts department must also be inspected according to the instructions provided by Sure-Lok. Copy attached.

FE200773S	FE200775	FE200776	FE200776S	FE200778
FE200778LB	FE200778S	FE200779	FE200779LB	FE200779S
FE200780	FE200823	FE200823S	FE200824	FE200824S
FE200825	FE200825S	FE200826	FE200826S	FE200827
FE200827S	FE200828	FE200828S	FE200855	FE200855LB
FE200855S	FE200857	FE200857S	FE200868-2	FE200868-4
FE200905LB	FE200907	FE200907S	FE200925S	FE200947
FE200948LB	FE200950LB	FE200953	FE200954	FF610
FF610S	FF611	FF611S	FF612	FF612-1
FF612-4C	FF612S	FF612S-4C	FF612S-4C-2	FF612S-4C-3
FF612S-4C-7	FF615	FF615S	FF615S-4C	FF627
FF627-1	FF627-4C	FF627-4C-1	FF627-4C-3	FF627S
FF627S-4C	FF627S-4C-3	FF628	FF628-4C	FF628S
FF628S-4C	FF660S-4C	FF661S-4C		

For replacement retractors for wheelchair securement systems sold through your parts department contact Sure-Lok, Inc. Customer Service at 866-787-3565.

Recall R04JB
Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement Retractor Recall

The following illustration shows a typical wheelchair securement installation. Only wheelchair securement systems with retractable belts are affected.



For questions regarding retractors for wheelchair securement systems contact Sure-Lok, Inc. Customer Service at 866-787-3565.

August 16, 2004

There is a possibility of a component related defect in Sure-Lok retractable wheelchair tie-down assemblies. It has been identified in only a few retractor assemblies; however, the potential for serious injury is sufficient to warrant this alert. This safety bulletin affects all retractable wheelchair tie-down assemblies shipped through July 2004.

The component defect places the sprocket teeth of the retractor assembly out of alignment, causing the load pawl to not fully seat in the sprocket teeth. **ALL retractable wheelchair tie-down assemblies must be inspected for this potential condition.** See instructions below. Any retractor, which meets the defined criteria, needs to be removed from service immediately and returned to Sure-Lok for replacement at no charge. Contact Customer Service at 866-787-3565 for further instructions.

Instructions for Inspecting Retractors

Retractor Operation:

Each retractor assembly has a load pawl that engages into two sprockets (one on each side). As the retractor strap is wound into the case, the load pawl ratchets or clicks into the teeth of the sprockets. On units that have the proper alignment (phasing) of the sprockets, the load pawl clicks into and seats in both sprockets simultaneously. On these units, there are 24 teeth encountered on one full rotation of the retractor knob.

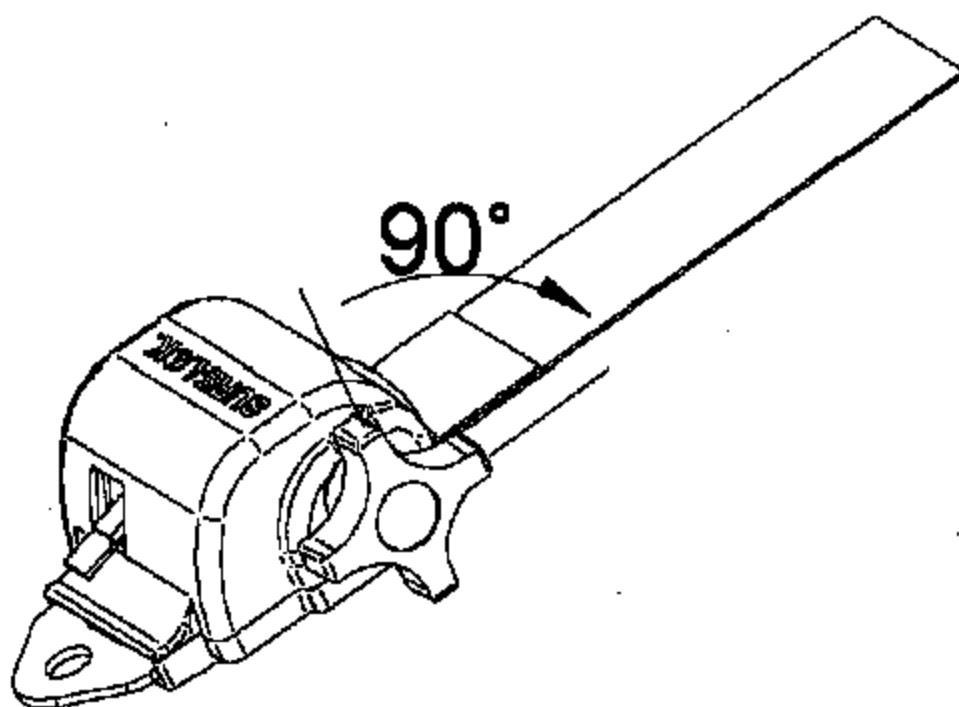
On units that exhibit the identified alignment or phase problem, the load pawl does not seat in both sprockets simultaneously, but encounters the sprocket teeth on one sprocket and then the other in succession. One full rotation of the retractor knob will click through 48 teeth (24 teeth for each sprocket) on these units.

SAFETY BULLETIN

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Inspecting Units That Have A Retractor Knob:

Release the retractor strap and pull approximately 1 foot of webbing from the retractor. Position the retractor knob so that one of the lugs on the knob is at the 12:00 o'clock position. Slowly rotate the retractor knob one-quarter rotation (90 degrees) and count the clicks as the load pawl encounters the sprocket teeth. Units that are out of phase and require replacement will have 12 clicks. Contact Sure-Lok customer service at 866-787-3565.



***Rotate the knob ¼ turn as shown in the picture and count the clicks
6 clicks identifies a properly functioning retractor
12 clicks identifies a defective unit that requires replacement***

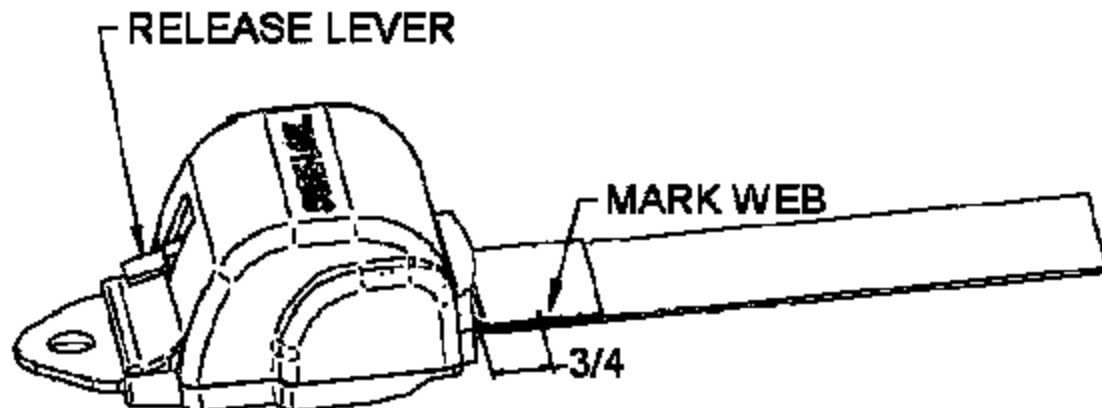
SAFETY BULLETIN

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Inspecting Units That Do Not Have A Retractor Knob:

Fully extend the webbing from the retractor, and measure $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the entrance throat of the retractor. Draw a line on the webbing at this point $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the entrance throat of the retractor. While holding the extended webbing taut, slowly depress the release lever to the point that it just releases the web.

Allow the webbing to be drawn into the retractor until the mark that you made is at the entrance of the retractor housing. Go slowly, one ratchet step at a time while counting the feel of ratchet clicks. It is necessary to let the release lever ride over the top of the sprocket teeth to feel the clicks. There should be the feel of six ratchet clicks encountered for a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch length of webbing. 12 clicks over the $\frac{3}{4}$ inch span of webbing indicates a defective retractor which needs to be removed from service immediately. Contact Sure-Lok customer service at 866-787-3565.



6 clicks to retract $\frac{3}{4}$ " of fully-extended web identifies a properly functioning retractor

12 clicks to retract $\frac{3}{4}$ " of fully-extended web identifies a defective unit that requires replacement