



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

APR 22 2005

Mr. BILL COLEMAN
CORPORATE RECALL ADMINISTRATOR
BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY
P.O. BOX 937
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

NVS-215KJS
05V-152

Subject: JOHN DEERE ENGINE SURGING

Dear MR. COLEMAN:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records AS this information will be made available to the public.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

BLUE BIRD/ALL AMERICAN/2001-2005
BLUE BIRD/COMMERCIAL SERIES/2001-2004
BLUE BIRD/Q-BUS/2001-2003

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-152

Recall Date: April 07, 2005

Components:

VEHICLE SPEED CONTROL

Potential Number of Units Affected: 486

Summary:

CERTAIN 2001 THROUGH 2005 ALL AMERICAN, COMMERCIAL SERIES, AND Q-BUS SCHOOL AND TRANSIT BUSES EQUIPPED WITH JOHN DEERE 8.1 CNG ENGINES. THE SUBJECT BUSES EQUIPPED WITH THE JOHN DEERE ENGINES MAY SURGE INAPPROPRIATELY DUE TO ERRACTIC OPERATION OF THE AIR THROTTLE IF THE ENGINE IS TAKEN FROM FULL TO ZERO LOAD.

Consequence:

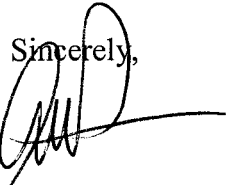
UNEXPECTED ENGINE SURGE COULD RESULT IN A VEHICLE CRASH, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN PERSONAL INJURY.

Remedy:

JOHN DEERE WILL NOTIFY BLUE BIRD'S CUSTOMERS AND REPAIR THE ENGINES FREE OF CHARGE. CUSTOMERS ARE BEING INSTRUCTED TO CONTACT JOHN DEERE AT 1-800-JD-ENGINE.

As stated in your report, we understand that John Deere will be conducting this safety recall. However, since Blue Bird is responsible for the defect/noncompliance in accordance with 49 CFR §573.5, please be advised that if John Deere's safety recall campaign is not successful, the agency will require Blue Bird to conduct a follow-up notification.

Your contact for this recall will be KELLY SCHULER, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227 or by email at KSCHULER@NHTSA.DOT.GOV.

Sincerely,


George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement