



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

NOV 23 2005

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

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

NVS-215kjs
05V-535

Subject: FMVSS 404/403 - WHEELCHAIR LIFT

Dear MR. COLEMAN:

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

Makes/Models/Model Years:
BLUE BIRD/MICRO BIRD/2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-535

Mfg's Report Date: November 18, 2005

Components:
EQUIPMENT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 9

Summary:
CERTAIN 2006 MY BLUE BIRD MICROBIRD SCHOOL BUSES EQUIPPED WITH A WHEELCHAIR LIFT MANUFACTURED FROM JULY 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 14, 2005. THE SHIFT INTERLOCK SYSTEM WAS NOT INSTALLED DURING PRODUCTION WHICH FAILS TO CONFORM TO FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NOS. 403, "PLATFORM LIFT SYSTEMS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, AND 404, "PLATFORM LIFT INSTALLATIONS IN MOTOR VEHICLES."

Consequence:
THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSEQUENCE.

Remedy:

BLUE BIRD WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPAIR THE BUSES BY INSTALLING THE REQUIRED SHIFT INTERLOCK SYSTEM FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON DECEMBER 7, 2005. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 478-822-2242.

Notes:

BLUE BIRD RECALL NO. R05KF. CUSTOMERS CAN CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, the recall is expected to begin on December 7, 2005. Therefore, Blue Bird's first report must be received in this office on or before January 30, 2006.

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. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



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