



BLUE BIRD

OSV-074 (399)

March 1, 2005

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. 6, Blue Bird Corporation is submitting the attached defect report.

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

Respectfully,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator

Enclosure: 49 CFR Part 573 Notification: Blue Bird Recall R05JM Webasto Heater
Burner Tube Recall

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION
402 Blue Bird Blvd. PO Box 937 • Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
(478) 825-2021

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: March 01, 2005

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

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

2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Blue Bird All American school and transit buses manufactured from December 21, 2002 through February 24, 2005. Model years affected are 2003 through 2006.

Blue Bird conventional school buses manufactured from March 12, 2003 through February 23, 2005. Model years affected are 2003 through 2006.

Blue Bird Commercial series transit buses manufactured in March 2004. Model year affected is 2004.

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

416

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

Less than 10%

5. The defect consist of:

According to Webasto Products North America, Inc. the walls of the burner tubes in the Webasto DBW 2010 Scholastic coolant heater may begin deteriorating at an accelerated rate and can fail. Webasto advises their lab test results indicate that the material composition of the stainless steel wall for these burner tubes was not within specification as to chromium and nickel. The failure of the burner tube could result in an increase in the temperature of the exhaust gas and a corresponding increase in the temperature of the exhaust system for the burner that could possibly ignite combustible material in or around the vehicle.

6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the defect.

On February 24, 2005 Blue Bird received notification via telephone that Webasto had notified NHTSA that it will be conducting a recall on the DBW 2010 Scholastic model coolant heater. Reference Webasto's 49CFR Part 573 Defect Notification Report for details of defect and proposed remedy.

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

Blue Bird will notify owners of its buses that are equipped with the Webasto DBW 2010 Scholastic model coolant heater advising them to have the suspect burner tubes replaced as soon as possible.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on March 24, 2005.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on March 31, 2005.
Webasto advises parts will be available at time of notification.

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

R05JM

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