



RECEIVED
NYS-215

2005 APR 15 A 11:46

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

April 07, 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, 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
Corporate Recall Administrator

Enclosure: 49 CFR Part 573 Notification: Blue Bird Recall R05JP John Deere 8.1 CNG
Engine Surging

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: April 07, 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:

2001 through 2005 model year All American rear engine school buses equipped with John Deere 8.1 CNG engines manufactured from August 26, 2000 through March 05, 2004

2001 through 2004 Commercial Series rear engine transit buses equipped with John Deere 8.1 CNG engines manufactured from October 06, 2000 through July 24, 2003

2001 through 2003 Q-Bus rear engine commercial buses equipped with John Deere 8.1 CNG engines manufactured from September 29, 2000 through December 12, 2002

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

486

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

100%

5. The defect consist of:

The subject buses equipped with John Deere engines may surge inappropriately due to erratic operation of the air throttle if the engine is taken from full to zero load.

Referenced John Deere, Inc. CFR 49 Part 573 Defect Notification dated March 30, 2005.

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

On April 04, 2005 Blue Bird received verbal notification from John Deere, Inc. of their intention to recall the subject engines.

On April 05, 2005, Blue Bird received a copy of John Deere's CFR Part 573 Defect Notification documents dated March 30, 2005.

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

John Deere, Inc. will update the engine control unit software. This update will be performed by John Deere's service network, employees or contract workers.

8. Notification will be as follows:

John Deere, Inc. has advised Blue Bird that they intend to mail recall notifications to owners on or before April 22, 2005. Blue Bird will provide an owner address list to assist John Deere, Inc. in this notification.

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

R04JP

10. A draft copy of the notification documents will be submitted to NHTSA for review prior to mailing.

John Deere Inc. will furnish a draft copy of the owner notification.

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