



OSV-190
(3 pgs.)

April 26, 2004

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 Body Company 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 R05JR FMVSS Joint
Strength Noncompliance-Interior Side wall
Panels

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

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting
Noncompliance Report**

Report Date: April 26, 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 2006 model year All American front engine and rear engine school buses
manufactured from December 06, 2004 through April 08, 2005

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

575

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

100%

5. The noncompliance consists of:

The interior side wall panels fail to conform to FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements.

6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the noncompliance:

On March 29, 2005 some discolored/non-matching interior wall side panels were changed. The technician changing the side panels noted that the adhesive used to adhere the side panels to the window sill and seat rail was not holding. A review of painting and adhesive application processes was initiated. On March 29, 2005 it was determined that an unauthorized change in paint masking was initiated on December 06, 2004 resulting in unsatisfactory adhesive performance. On March 29, 2005 paint masking was corrected to the approved process for this application.

On April 11, 2005 Blue Bird Engineering began testing to determine if the variation would meet FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements.

On April 21, 2005 Blue Bird Engineering determined the above described variation to design resulted in FMVSS 221 Joint Strength noncompliance.

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

To be determined

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is to be determined

Owner notification is to be determined

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R05JR

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, Corporate Recall Administrator