



BLUE BIRD

FAX

RECEIVED
313-215

2005 AUG 31 A 9:42

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

OSV-382 (499s.)

Date: 08-31-05

To: Kelly Schuler
NHTSA
202-366-5227 PHONE
202-366-7882 FAX

From: Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company
478-822-2242 PHONE
478-822-2467 FAX

Number of pages including cover: 4

If you do not receive the entire transmission, please call the above referenced number.

COMMENTS:

You will find enclosed the required 573.6 Defect Report for our Recall R05KA Loose Connections at Battery Disconnect Switch.

The originals will be mailed via certified mail to Mr. Medford today. If you have any questions, please contact me at the above number.

Thanks,

Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Corporation

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: August 31, 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 2001 through 2006 model year All American transit school buses manufactured from January 09, 2001 through June 18, 2005 equipped with battery disconnect switch.

Blue Bird 2001 through 2005 model year TC/2000 transit school buses manufactured from January 05, 2001 through May 31, 2005 equipped with battery disconnect switch.

Blue Bird 2004 through 2006 model year "Vision" conventional school buses manufactured from October 22, 2003 through July 15, 2005 equipped with battery disconnect switch.

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

5,863

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

100%

5. The defect consists of:

Connections may be loose on the battery switch studs creating the potential for the bus to shut down while in operation.

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

On May 12, 2005 Blue Bird Customer Service received a request from our distributor in Virginia to remove the battery disconnect switches on Blue Bird "Vision" model conventional school buses operated by Newport News Public Schools in Virginia. Blue Bird reviewed the Virginia state school bus specifications and advise our distributor that the battery disconnect switches could be removed.

On May 18, 2005 Blue Bird was notified by the NHTSA Office of Defects Investigation that two Blue Bird "Vision" model conventional school buses operated by Newport News Public Schools had shut down while in operation reportedly due to faulty battery disconnect switches.

On May 26, 2005 Blue Bird was notified by the NHTSA Office of Defects Investigation that another Blue Bird "Vision" model conventional school bus operated by Newport News Public Schools had shutdown while in operation reportedly due to faulty battery disconnect switches.

On June 01, 2005 Blue Bird dispatched a factory service representative to Newport News Public Schools to remove the battery disconnect switches from their Blue Bird "Vision" model conventional school buses. The removal of the battery disconnect switches and installation of junction blocks was completed on June 03, 2005.

On June 17, 2005, Blue Bird received a Preliminary Evaluation (PE05-028) regarding the battery disconnect switch from the NHTSA Office of Defects Investigation.

On July 21, 2005 Blue Bird provided available pertinent information requested by the Preliminary Evaluation (PE05-028).

On August 15, 2005, after examination of battery disconnect switches returned from Newport News Public schools, Blue Bird provided additional information in response to the Preliminary Evaluation (PE05-0287)..

On August 23, 2005 Blue Bird decided to conduct a recall campaign regarding loose connections at the battery disconnect switch on all Blue Bird school bus models manufactured from January 01, 2001 through July 15, 2006 equipped with the subject battery disconnect switch.

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

Owners will be notified to inspect battery disconnect switch for loose connections, to replace standard nut on 10/32 stud with a locking nut and to inspect and reposition, if necessary, the star washers on the 10/32 stud. Owners will also be advised to check for proper battery disconnect switch wiring.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on September 23, 2005.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on September 30, 2005.
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R05KA

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
Corporate 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