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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

November 18, 2005

Mr. Ron Medford
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 noncompliance report. This report was emailed to NHTSA on November 18, 2005 to the attention of Kelly Schuler.

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 R05KF FMVSS 403/404
Noncompliance Omission of Shift Interlock on Wheelchair Lift Equipped
Buses

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: November 18, 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 MicroBird school buses equipped with wheelchair lift manufactured from July 01, 2005 through November 14, 2005.

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

9

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

100%

5. The noncompliance consists of:

Omission of shift interlock system when wheelchair lift is installed as required by FMVSS 404 and 403S6.10.10.2.1 and 6.10.2.2.

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

On November 09, 2005 Blue Bird Engineering was notified of a possible order incompatibility related to wheelchair installations on 2006 model year MicroBird model school buses. Blue Bird Engineering initiated a review of order compatibility data regarding MicroBird school buses equipped with wheelchair lifts.

On November 10, 2005 Blue Bird Engineering reported the option for required shift interlock had not been tied to the option for wheelchair lift installation on 2006 model year MicroBird school buses manufactured after July 01, 2005 thereby resulting in a noncompliance with FMVSS 404 and 403S6.10.10.2.1 and 6.10.2.2..

On November 11, 2005 order compatibility was updated to ensure compliance with FMVSS 404 and 403. An order search found nine MicroBird buses that were built and delivered without the shift interlock feature as required by FMVSS 404 and 403S6.10.10.2.1 and 6.10.2.2.

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

The required shift interlock system will be installed on subject buses.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on November 30, 2005.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on December 07, 2005.

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R05KF

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