



BLUE BIRD

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February 23, 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 February 23, 2006 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 Noncompliance Notification: Blue Bird Recall R06KP
FMVSS 301 "Fuel System Integrity" noncompliance on Blue Bird Micro Bird
School Bus

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: February 23, 2006

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 Micro Bird school buses mounted on Ford chassis.

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

13

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

100%

5. The noncompliance consist of:

Certification of the Ford chassis to FMVSS 301; "Fuel System Integrity" requirements is based on the provision of a protective steel cage by the final stage manufacturer. The 8" bumper installed by Blue Bird on the subject vehicles does not meet Ford's certification requirements for a 10" bumper as part of the protective steel cage.

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

On February 15, 2006, Blue Bird received an inquiry from the Ohio State Patrol regarding the fuel tank mounting position on a Blue Bird Micro Bird bus mounted on a Ford chassis. Blue Bird reviewed its mounting procedures and advised the Ohio State Patrol that no modification had been done to the fuel tank position on the subject Ford chassis.

On February 16, 2006, a subsequent review of the incomplete vehicle documents issued by Ford on the subject chassis indicated a need for a 10" bumper as part of their protective cage requirements for FMVSS 301; "Fuel System Integrity" certification. The rear bumper installed by Blue Bird was an 8" bumper. A search of all potential units was conducted and 37 units were identified. Of those 37 units, 13 had been delivered.

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

Blue Bird will replace the 8" bumper with a 10" bumper that complies with Ford's protective cage requirements.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on: March 06, 2006
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on: March 13, 2006
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R06KP

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