



April 10, 2006

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 defect report. This report was emailed to NHTSA on April 10, 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 Notification: Blue Bird Recall R06KS Ricon Wheelchair
Lift Vertical Control Arm Weld Cracks

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 10, 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:

The following Blue Bird model school and transit buses are involved in this recall.

Model	Manufactured dates
All American	From July 07, 2005 through November 03, 2005
Conventional "Vision"	From July 11, 2005 through November 08, 2005

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

129

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

Ricon estimates 3-5% may contain defective welds.

5. The defect consists of:

The potential defect is in the weld joint of the vertical control arm on the platform lift. Ricon determined that the potential defect is the result of welds that did not achieve full penetration. See Ricon's CFR Part 49, 573 submittal dated January 23, 2006 for complete details. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operation it may not be possible to close the lift door causing the vehicle interlocks to remain engaged preventing movement of the vehicle or the ability to load or unload passengers with disabilities from the vehicle.

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

On April 03, 2006 Blue Bird received a certified letter from Ricon Corp. advising of the defect and recall. See Ricon Corp. CFR Part 49 573 notification dated January 26, 2006 for details of Ricon Corp. determination of the defect.

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

Blue Bird will notify potential owners of the defect in the Ricon lift vertical control arms. Owners will be advised to inspect the control arms for cracks in the weld. If cracks are found replacement control arms will be provided to the owners at no charge. Owners will be advised to have the vertical control arms replaced by factory trained personnel at their nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on May 05, 2006.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on May 12, 2006.
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R06KS

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, Recall Administrator