

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

06V-261

(2pgs)

Report Date: July 14, 2006

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Blue Bird Corporation
P. O. Box 937
Fort Valley, GA 31030

OFFICE OF EFFECTS
INVESTIGATION

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2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

2004-07 Blue Bird "Vision" model conventional buses manufactured from August 05, 2003 through June 13, 2006 and equipped with Option 40280-02 Ammeter Shunt.

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

7,980

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

100%

5. The defect consists of:

The power cable originally installed between the toe board and the shunt may be too short and may break due to engine vibration.

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

On March 21, 2005 Blue Bird receive an initial report of an ammeter shunt power cable breaking.

In April, 2005 a design review found that if the cable was not properly installed the cable could be too taut and possibly break due to fatigue caused by engine vibration.

On April 15, 2005 a new longer power cable for the ammeter shunt was implemented in production.

On May 02, 2005 Blue Bird received reports of 3 more units with broken ammeter shunt power cables.

On July 26, 2005 a search of the warranty system found only 21 warranty claims for replacing the ammeter power cable. There were no reports of shorts or fires.

On August 12, 2005 a test was conducted to determine if the bus would shut down in the event the ammeter power cable broke. The test concluded the bus would continue to run approximately 1.5 hours at which point the voltage dropped to 11.5 volts and an audible and visual signal activated. The bus then continued to run for another 1.5 hours before it was shut off to end the test. No further action was taken at this time.

On June 06, 2006 Blue Bird received a report from NHTSA of ammeter shunt power cables breaking.

On June 13, 2006 a search of the warranty system found additional claims for replacing the original cable and one report of smoke and 7 reported "stopped on the road".

On July 12, 2006 a recall was authorized to replace the original ammeter power cable with a longer cable.

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

The original cable will be removed and replaced with a longer cable on all units equipped with the short cable. The ammeter shunt mounting will also be upgraded on all units delivered through July 12, 2006.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on August 24, 2006.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on August 31, 2006.

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

9. Blue Bird's identification number assigned to this recall is: R06KW

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: _____

Bill Coleman

William P. Coleman, Recall Administrator