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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

DATE: July 07, 2006

TO: U.S. DISTRIBUTORS

SUBJECT: RECALL R06KU BENDIX SR-7 SPRING BRAKE VALVE RECALL

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2007 model year Blue Bird "Vision" conventional school buses equipped with air brakes manufactured from April 07, 2006 through May 26, 2006. The defect involves the Bendix SR-7 spring brake valve.

Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect. Buses with the defect must be corrected according to the attached instructions.

If our records indicate affected units were delivered in your service area, a printout identifying affected units is enclosed. **Note: Not all Bendix SR-7 spring brake valves are defective.** The date code must be identified and recorded on the enclosed reply sheet. Only SR-7 spring brake valves with the defective date code range are to be replaced under Recall R06KU.

It is the distributor's responsibility to verify that the correct owner name, address and telephone number is provided for each listed vehicle. Any corrections or updates should be made on BBOND. Addresses that cannot be updated on BBOND should be forwarded to the Recall Administrator.

If you have in your possession or have sold a vehicle that was purchased from another distributor that may be affected by this recall, please notify me at 478-822-2242.

Labor time authorized to remove and replace the Bendix SR-7 spring brake valve is 1 hour per bus. Since the SR-7 spring brake valve must be removed to inspect the date code Blue Bird will provide a replacement SR-7 spring brake valve prior to beginning work. If the date code is not one of the defective SR-7 spring brake valves reinstall the original brake valve and return the replacement brake valve to Blue Bird.

See attached Bendix publication BW2585 titled "Bendix SR-7 Valve Recall Campaign Identification Guidelines.

Warranty applications may be submitted to Blue Bird VIA ClaimTrac (use create campaign/bulletin claim). Return defective SR-7 valves to: Blue Bird Corporation 402 Blue Bird Blvd, Fort Valley GA 31030 Attn: Bill Coleman

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Distributors are reminded of their responsibilities under section 154 of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1991. Dealers are required to complete modifications/repairs on units in their inventory before delivering to the final owner. Reference Blue Bird Body Company Distributor Memo No. 42-92.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Sincerely,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator

R06KU



Bendix SR7 Valve

MODELS AFFECTED: 2007 Model Blue Bird Visions

RECALL

ISSUE

Bendix has issued a recall on all Bendix SR-7 spring brake modulating valves manufactured between April 1 and May 24, 2006.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

This procedure describes how to determine if the SR-7 valve on a Blue Bird Vision is one of those affected, and how to replace it.

PROCEDURE

1 Prepare the vehicle for working underneath: Park vehicle on level surface. Apply parking brake. Remove key and chock all wheels. Disconnect the negative battery terminal(s). Release the air pressure fully from all three air tanks by opening their drain valves.

2 Dismount, but do not disconnect, the SR-7 valve so that its markings can be viewed.

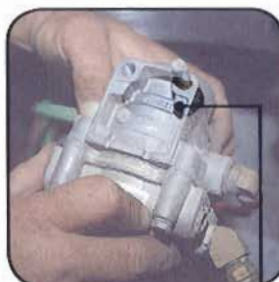
2.1 Locate the SR-7 spring brake modulating valve, which is mounted on a chassis frame crossmember forward of the rear axle.



2.2 Remove the two nuts and two washers securing the SR-7 valve to its mounting bracket.



2.3 With the nuts removed, and the mounting studs slid out of the mounting bracket, the valve can be carefully rotated to view the markings cast into the side and top of the body, without disconnecting any air lines. There are two markings to check: As mounted on the bus, the Bendix series number (which will read either Bendix 1 or Bendix 2) is on the rear side of the valve. The date code is on the top of the valve.



Bendix 1 or Bendix 2 Mark



Date Code

3 Refer to the included Bendix SR-7 Valve Recall Campaign Identification Guidelines to determine if the valve installed is one of those affected by the recall.

4 If the valve identification does not fall within the affected range, no replacement is necessary. Go immediately to step 6. If the valve does fall within the affected range proceed with replacing the valve as follows:

4.1 Note the port locations of all air lines connected to the SR-7 valve. Using masking tape and a marker, label each line connected to the SR-7 valve on the bus and label each corresponding port on the new valve.

4.2 Disconnect the air lines from the valve. To release each line from its fitting, grasp the line and push it inward toward its fitting. With fingers or a crescent wrench, depress and hold the brass release ring while pulling the hose outward.

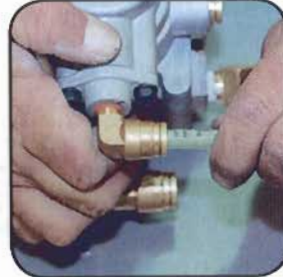
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S E R V I C E R E C A L L

4.3 Disconnect the left and right brake chamber lines from the SR-7 Valve. The swivel fittings for these two air hoses are at the brake chamber end of the hose. Therefore, disconnect the swivel end first. Then loosen the cable ties which secure the hose so that the hose can rotate as its fitting is removed from the SR-7 valve.



To disconnect the air lines:



Push the hose in. The lock collar moves with it.



Hold the collar inward



... while pulling the hose out.



To connect the airlines, push the line inward until it bottoms.

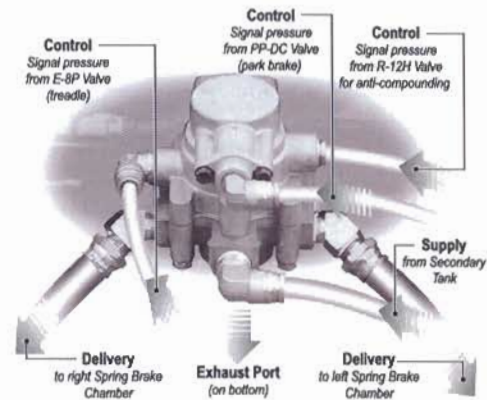


Pull outward firmly to ensure the lock.

5 The replacement SR-7 Valve from Bendix is pre-assembled with all brass hose fittings already installed and direction-oriented. Take the new SR-7 valve to the bus and install:

5.1 Attach all the air lines according to the labels which were applied in step 4.1.

5.2 Attach the brake chamber hoses to the SR-7 valve. Re secure with cable ties as they were originally installed. Attach the swivel ends to the brake chambers.



6 Re-mount the valve and finish:

6.1 Remount the valve to its mounting bracket with the original fasteners and tighten to 180-220 in lb.

6.2 Reconnect the battery.

6.3 Start the engine. Allow system pressure to fully build to operating pressure.

6.4 Stop the engine, remove the key and check all connections for leaks.

6.5 If no leaks exist, the bus may be returned to normal service.

6.6 Package the old valve for return to Blue Bird per instructions in this Recall package's cover letter.

7 Fill out the attached Inspection Data Record Sheet and return per its instructions.