



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 3, 2007

WILLIAM COLEMAN  
CORPORATE RECALL ADMINISTRATOR  
BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY  
PO BOX 937  
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

NVS-215paw  
07V-540

Subject: TIE ROD ENDS/STUDS

Dear MR. COLEMAN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Blue Bird Body Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below, for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
BLUE BIRD/EXPRESS/2006-2007

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 07V-540

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 9, 2007

**Components:** STEERING: LINKAGES: TIE ROD ASSEMBLY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 13

**Summary:**

THE CASTLE NUTS ON THE TIE ROD ENDS AND RELAY ROD STUDS IN THE INDEPENDENT SUSPENSION ASSEMBLIES ARE LOOSE AND/OR NOT TIGHTENED TO SPECIFICATIONS. LOW AND/OR NO TORQUE ON A NUT CAN RESULT IN EXCESSIVE SLACK IN THE STEERING SYSTEM, THEREBY ALLOWING THE TAPERED JOINT TO MOVE AND SUBSEQUENTLY SHEAR THE COTTER PIN.

**Consequence:**

THIS CONDITION CAN RESULT IN THE STEERING LINK TO BECOME DISCONNECTED AND CAUSE A LOSS OF STEERING CONTROL WHICH COULD RESULT IN A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

BLUE BIRD IS WORKING WITH ARVIN-MERITOR TO REPAIR THESE COACHES. THE RECALL BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 9, 2007. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 1-478-822-2242.

**Notes:**

BLUE BIRD RECALL NO. R07MP. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [Patricia.wallace@dot.gov](mailto:Patricia.wallace@dot.gov), [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "P".

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement