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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

07V-407
(4 pages)

September 06, 2007

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 September 06, 2007 to the attention of George Person.

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 R07MJ Caterpillar Oil Fill
Tube Recall

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: September 06, 2007

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

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

2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Certain 2008 model year Blue Bird Vision model conventional school buses manufactured from June 06, 2007 thorough September 04, 2007 and equipped with 2007 model year Caterpillar C7 engines.

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

Approximately 1,339

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The oil fill cap may separate from the oil fill tube allowing engine oil to be emitted from the tube. Under these conditions oil could wet the left front brake shoes/pads resulting in reduced braking capacity and may result in a situation where a vehicle crash could occur resulting in property damage, personal injury or death.

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

In early June of 2007, Blue Bird began receiving reports alleging that on certain 2008 model year conventional school buses (Vision model) equipped with 2007 model year Caterpillar C7 engines, the oil filler cap and retaining ring insert were separating from the oil fill tube while engine was running and at very low mileage. Some of these reports contained allegations that engine oil was being discharged from the open filler tube and contacting the engine, body and left front suspension components.

On June 13, 2007, Blue Bird notified Caterpillar of this issue. Caterpillar informed Blue Bird that they were aware of the concern and had a problem resolution team working this issue. Their investigation had found that the non-metallic insert to which the cap attaches can separate from the metallic tube while the engine was running.

On June 14, 2007, Blue Bird requested Caterpillar to provide the plans for their containment action to address existing buses in the field and in stock. Blue Bird continued to work with Caterpillar to resolve this issue.

On August 27, 2007, Blue Bird received a report of the oil filler cap separating from the tube and engine oil had wet the left front brake shoes. Caterpillar Inc. was immediately notified of this condition. By August 30, 2007, Blue Bird had identified a total of 44 reports that may relate to this concern-three of those reports alleged engine oil contamination of the left front brake shoes.

On September 05, 2007, Blue Bird and Caterpillar determined that the condition as described above posed an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety and to conduct safety recalls to correct this concern.

As of September 06, 2007, Blue Bird has identified 12 incidents of oil spilled on the left front wheel assembly. Of those 12 buses Blue Bird has confirmed that seven units had the brakes shoes replaced due to oil contamination.

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

Owners will be advised to remove their buses from service until they can contact their Caterpillar dealer to have an interim repair performed by an authorized Caterpillar dealer. The interim repair consists of installing two screws through the oil fill tube to retain the oil fill retainer insert in place. Owners will also be advised to have the left front brake shoes/pads inspected for the presence of oil. If oil is found, both the left and right front brake shoes/pads are to be replaced.

Caterpillar will subsequently issue a separate recall notification letter to the affected owners advising them to take their bus(es) to a Caterpillar dealer to have the oil fill tube assembly replaced with a new filler tube assembly, which constitutes the permanent corrective action.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Blue Bird dealer notification is scheduled to begin on September 07, 2007.

Blue Bird owner notification is scheduled to begin on September 07, 2007 and to be completed by September 07, 2007.

Interim parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

Final remedy parts are anticipated to be available on or about September 17, 2007.

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

R07MJ

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,
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company
P.O. Box 937
Fort Valley GA 31030
(478) 822-2242

Signed: _____

William P. Coleman

William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator