



R07MG

January 15, 2008

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

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

Blue Bird Body Company has decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 1986 through 1994 model year Blue Bird conventional school buses manufactured from November 21, 1985 through September 14, 1993 and equipped with an optional firewall heater hose connector. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

The defect involves the heater hoses that run from the optional firewall connector to the left front heater. The subject buses were manufactured without an optional close out panel or heater hose cover. In the event the heater hose should rupture or separate on the driver's side of the firewall, hot engine coolant may contact the driver and may cause injury.

To correct this defect a metal protective cover must be installed over the heater hoses from the optional firewall heater hose connector to the left front heater in the driver's area. Instructions for installing the protective heater hose covers are attached.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the **pink** reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

To receive parts required to correct this condition return the yellow parts request sheet in the pink self addressed, postage prepaid envelope.

Labor time required to perform Recall R07MG is two hours per bus. Reimbursement for labor may be obtained by completing the **pink** request for reimbursement sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed **pink** postage prepaid envelope.

A qualified technician should perform this recall or you may contact your Blue Bird distributor for assistance.

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION
402 Blue Bird Blvd. PO Box 937 • Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
(478) 825-2021

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attached a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the **pink** self-addressed postage paid envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty reimbursement consideration.

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

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 SEVENTH STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

or you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236
TTY 1-800-424-9153

Or go to: [HTTP://WWW.SAFECAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFECAR.GOV)

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

Thank you,



Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
BLUE BIRD CORPORATION



Heater Hose Shield

RECALL

MODELS AFFECTED: SBCV Conventionals Manufactured from November 21, 1985 through September 14, 1993 with an optional heater hose connector on the driver's side of the bus.

ISSUE

Per state specification, certain Blue Bird conventional buses were built with an optional firewall heater hose connector on the driver's side of the bus. An optional driver's side close out panel or heater hose shield was not ordered and installed in conjunction with the firewall connector. In the event of heater hose rupture on the driver's side of the firewall, hot engine coolant may come in contact with the driver and cause personal injury.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Install flexible steel tubing over the heater hose.

WARNING Always follow all federal, state, local and shop safety standards, and use proper safety equipment when performing this procedure.

PROCEDURE

1 Park bus on a level surface, apply parking brake, turn off engine, remove ignition key and chock wheel.

WARNING Always allow ample time for the engine and coolant to cool before working on the cooling system. Exercise extreme care when removing the radiator cap. Vent radiator cap pressure slowly. Engine coolant is toxic and is an eye and skin irritant. Protective gear should be worn when working with this substance. Engine coolant is a threat to the environment. Dispose coolant in conjunction with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.

2 Drain sufficient amount of coolant from the cooling system to drain the pressure and return hoses from the firewall connector to the left front heater connector.

3 Remove panels as required to access the left heater hose connections.

4 Remove clamps and heater hose between the firewall connector and the heater.

5 Measure the heater hose removed and cut a new hose the same length. Discard old hose and clamps.

6 Cut a piece of flexible steel tubing 1 3/4 inches shorter than the new heater hose. Remove all sharp edges and burrs from the flexible steel tubing with a round file.

7 Slide the heater hose inside the flexible steel tubing.

8 Slide the constant torque clamp onto each end of the new heater hose. Then install the new heater hose and flexible steel tubing onto the connectors at the left front heater and at the firewall connector. Torque constant clamps to 45 in-lb.

9 Repeat same procedure on the adjacent line.

10 Refill the engine coolant removed earlier.

11 Bleed Heaters:

11.1 With the engine stopped and a cool engine, remove the radiator cap.

11.2. Start engine and operate at 1800 to 2000 rpm.

11.3. Locate the 1/4 inch black tube with a bleed valve. Place the open end of the bleeder tube into filler neck of deaeration tank.

11.4. Open the bleeder valve.

11.5. Add 50/50 premix coolant as required during this process to maintain the coolant level.

11.6. Operate the engine with the bleeder valve open until all air has been purged from the system.

11.7. After the air has been purged and solid stream is present, turn off the bleeder valve and store the bleeder line.

11.8. Install the radiator cap.

11.9. Operate the engine until the thermostats open. Stop and let engine cool.

11.10 Recheck coolant levels and top off with approved 50/50 premixed coolant

R07MG

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



- 12** Check for coolant leaks.
- 13** Reinstall all access panels that have been removed.
- 14** Place bus back in service.

PROCEDURE

PART NUMBER	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
2007847	6 Feet	Tubing, Flexible Steel, 1-1/2" ID x 1-5/8" OD
1143866	6 Feet	Hose, Heater, 1" ID, Silicon
1894799	4	Clamp, Constant Torque, 1"

