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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

08V-062  
(4 pages)

February 06, 2008

Mr. Ron Medford  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
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's email address [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov) on February 06, 2008.

If you should have any questions concerning the information submitted, please contact me at 478-822-2242.

Respectfully,

Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator

Enclosure: 49 CFR Part 573 Notification: Blue Bird Recall R08MX Incorrect  
Operation of Rear LED Turn Signals

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

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting**

**Noncompliance Report**

**Report Date:** February 06, 2008

**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 and 2009 model year Blue Bird Micro-Bird school buses manufactured from October 01, 2007 through January 28, 2008 mounted on General Motors chassis with option 30116-05 or 30117-05 LED rear turn signals.

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

45

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

100%

**5. The noncompliance consists of:**

The LED turn signal lights do not meet FMVSS 108 S5.1.1 Table 1 flash rate requirements for turn signals. The subject LED turn signal lights operate at approximately 180 flashes per minute. The FMVSS flash rate requirement is 60-120 flashes per minute.

**6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the noncompliance:**

On January 15, 2008, Blue Bird was notified by a dealer in New Jersey that four subject buses were rejected by state inspectors for excessively fast turn signal flash rates. Similar reports were received from a dealer in Kansas and a dealer in Minnesota.

Subsequent discussions with GM revealed the 2008 model year GM chassis was equipped with a body control module that regulated the turn signal flash rate using an algorithm based on electrical resistance in the circuit. Prior model years utilized a flasher control module. The LED's used in the optional rear turn signals generate significantly less resistance than incandescent bulbs. An analysis of the GM algorithm determined that the subsequent LED flash rate was beyond the range allowed by FMVSS 108S5.1.1.

On January 28, 2008, Blue Bird quarantined all subject buses at its Ft. Valley facility. Engineering determined that the addition of a resistor to the turn signal circuit on the subject buses would increase the resistance and be comparable to the resistance of an incandescent bulb and consequently slow the flash rate to a compliant level. A review of Blue Bird's production records identified 45 subject units equipped with optional rear LED turn signals that were delivered to dealers and owners.

On January 29, Blue Bird decided to issue a recall to correct this noncompliance.

**7. The noncompliance will be corrected in the following manner:**

A resistor will be installed in the turn signal circuit to bring the LED rear turn signal flash rate within FMVSS requirements.

**8. Notification will be as follows:**

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on February 14, 2008.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on February 14, 2008.

Parts will be included with the owner notification package.

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

R08MX

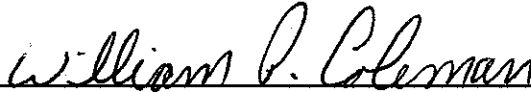
**10. Dealer and Owner notification:**

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 Corporation  
P.O. Box 937  
Fort Valley GA 31030  
(478) 822-2242

**Signed:**



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William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator