



BLUE BIRD

February 19, 2008

08V-077
(4 pages)

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 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 R08MZ Cummins High Pressure Fuel Line Leak

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

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

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: February 19, 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:

Blue Bird All American rear engine school buses equipped with Cummins ISC engines manufactured from February 20, 2004 through April 15, 2007.

Blue Bird Xcel 102 Commercial Series transit buses equipped with Cummins ISC engines manufactured from March 26, 2006 through April 15, 2007.

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

592 All American Rear Engine School Buses
15 Xcel 102 Transit Buses

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The engine high pressure fuel line from the high pressure pump to the engine fuel rail on certain Cummins ISC engines may leak at the fuel line fitting attachments permitting high pressure atomized diesel fuel to enter the engine compartment. The fuel line pressure at this location is typically between 18,000 and 22,000 psi. This condition creates the potential for risk of fire in the engine compartment should the atomized diesel fuel vapor contact an ignition source.

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

On May 04, 2006, Blue Bird received a copy of Cummins Service Campaign c0610 Fuel Line Bracket. The service campaign was directed to buses used in transit applications. At that time, Blue Bird was not aware of any complaints of the high pressure fuel line leaking on any of its applicable products.

On January 16, 2008, Blue Bird was one of the recipients of an email from Cummins advising that a letter was being sent out by NHTSA regarding the high pressure fuel line on Cummins ISC and ISL engines. The email also stated Cummins viewpoint on this issue.

On January 29, 2008, Blue Bird received the letter (EQ08-001) from NHTSA. Blue Bird, at this time, was still unaware of any complaints regarding this issue.

On February 11, 2008, Blue Bird consulted with Cummins and requested a copy of Cummins warranty claims on the 607 affected engines related to this issue that were installed in Blue Bird buses.

On February 12, 2008, Cummins supplied the requested warranty claim data. A total of 11 claims were identified. The failures occurred from May 05, 2005 through November 01, 2007.

On February 13 and 14, 2008, Blue Bird contacted three of the owners identified on the warranty claim report. The owners advised that when the fuel line failed a substantial amount of fuel sprayed over the right side of the engine compartment.

Although there were no reports of fire, personal injury or property damage, on February 18, 2008, Blue Bird decided that due to the unique nature of our product (school bus) that a substantial fuel leak in the engine compartment was unacceptable and a recall would be issued to correct this condition.

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

Owners will be advised to contact their Cummins dealers to have Cummins Service Campaign c0610 Fuel Line Bracket performed as soon as possible.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on or before March 18, 2008.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on or before March 18, 2008.

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

A draft copy of the notification documents will be submitted to NHTSA for review prior to mailing.

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

R08MZ

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: 
William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator