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08V-229
(3 pages)

May 19, 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 on May 19, 2008.

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

Respectfully,

Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Corporation

Enclosure: 49 CFR Part 573 Notification: Blue Bird Recall R08NC Rivets Omitted in Rear Roof Cap

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting
Noncompliance Report**

Report Date: May 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 2005 through 2009 model year All American transit model school buses and "Vision" conventional model school buses manufactured at Fort Valley, Georgia, from January 22, 2004 through March 28, 2008.

Blue Bird 2004 through 2007 model year All American transit model school buses and conventional model school buses manufactured at Lafayette, Georgia, from March 06, 2003 through June 16, 2006.

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

23,464

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

unknown

5. The noncompliance consist of:

The rivet pattern may be incorrect in sections of the rear roof sheet joint that attaches to the rear roof cap. The result of the incorrect pattern may result in a noncompliance to FMVSS No. 221 Joint Strength requirements.

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

On February 19, 2008, quality inspectors at Blue Bird's Fort Valley, Georgia manufacturing facility identified that the spacing of roof rivets that attach the rear roof sheet to the rear roof cap on some of the subject buses did not meet design specifications. A subsequent inspection of buses on-site identified additional units with this issue. No buses were identified that had consecutive rivets missing. Subsequent inspections at Blue Bird's manufacturing facility in Lafayette, Georgia did not identify any subject buses in-process or on-site that failed to meet design specifications for roof rivet spacing.

On March 3, 2008, Blue Bird Customer Services initiated a survey of subject buses in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. On April 28, 2008, results of the field survey identified 45 subject buses produced at various time periods from both the Blue Bird Lafayette, Georgia manufacturing facility and the Blue Bird Fort Valley, Georgia manufacturing facility that did not meet the design specification for roof rivet spacing.

On May 12, 2008, compliance recall R08NC was approved to inspect the subject roof joint on all suspect buses and confirm that no less than six rivets are present in any eight inch section of the joint. Additional rivet(s) are to be installed as necessary to provide a minimum of six rivets per any eight inch section of the subject roof joint.

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

A template will be provided to dealers and owners to facilitate inspection of the rivet pattern on the rear roof cap on the subject buses. Instructions and parts will be provided to add rivets as needed to comply with FMVSS No. 221 Joint Strength requirements.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer and owner notification letters are scheduled to be mailed on July 18, 2008. Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R08NC

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, Recall Administrator