

RECEIVED
2008 JULY 11
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.



July 11, 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 rm.d.odi@dot.gov on July 11, 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 R08NB Hydraulic Brake
Hose Chafing

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: July 11, 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 2004 through 2009 model year Vision conventional school and transit buses manufactured from January 11, 2004, through April 22, 2008, and equipped with hydraulic brakes.

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

5,422

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

On the subject buses the hydraulic brake hoses from the master cylinder to the chassis frame may have been improperly routed or retained. Improper routing or retention of the hydraulic brake hoses may result in the brake hoses chafing against body and/or chassis components which could cause a leak in the hydraulic brake system resulting in reduced braking capacity which could result in a vehicle crash.

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

On March 19, 2008, Blue Bird Field Services received information alleging that hydraulic brake hoses exiting from the master cylinder were chafing and cut on certain Vision model conventional buses. On March 20, 2008, Blue Bird Field Services began working with its dealer, Central States Bus Sales, on routing modifications to correct this condition on buses in the field.

On March 24, 2008, Blue Bird engineering reviewed and concurred on the Field Services proposal to use loom, brackets, and clamps to securely position the hydraulic hoses in a routing path that would prevent the lines from chaffing on surrounding components.

On March 27, 2008, the Critical Issues Review Group (CIRG) requested that the Product Safety Committee (PSC) review the issue. On April 17, 2008, preliminary engineering instructions directing the proper method for positioning and retaining the hydraulic brake hoses were provided to the chassis assembly line. On April 21, 2008, the PSC reviewed this issue and returned it to the CIRG for further investigation. On April 23, 2008, engineering finalized the production design to eliminate chaffing on the affected brake hoses and implemented those design changes on April 24, 2008. On April 25, 2008, the PSC determined that this issue could represent an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety and recommended that a safety recall be approved to remedy the issue.

During the month of May 2008, Blue Bird conducted a field survey of 332 subject buses to identify the incident rate and severity of the brake hose chaffing. The survey identified 61 hoses showing damage that may be related to this issue.

Blue Bird has not identified any allegations of reduced braking efficiency that may relate to this issue involving a subject bus while in service. There was one report from Missouri alleging that a subject bus experienced reduced braking efficiency while being driven to the repair facility. The subject bus was in an "Out of Service" condition and there were no passengers aboard the vehicle. A subsequent investigation by Blue Bird determined that the root cause for the leaking brake hose was a result of unrelated damage and was not related to this concern.

To-date, Blue Bird is aware of 22 warranty claims, six field reports, and 61 occurrences of brake hose chaffing that may relate to this issue.

On July 8, 2008, Blue Bird approved safety recall R08NB to remedy this issue.

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

The hydraulic brake hoses from the master cylinder to the chassis frame will be inspected for chafing and replaced, if damaged. In addition, the brake hoses will be repositioned, loom added at the appropriate location, and properly retained.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on July 30, 2008.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on July 30, 2008.

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R08NB

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: William P. Coleman
William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator