



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 23, 2009

MR. WILLIAM COLEMAN  
RECALL ADMINISTRATOR  
BLUE BIRD CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 937  
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

NVS-215kjs  
09V-284

**SUBJECT: LOSS OF POWER STEERING ASSIST**

**DEAR MR. COLEMAN:**

This letter serves to acknowledge Blue Bird Corporation's (Blue Bird) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the vehicles described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal laws.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

BLUE BIRD/VISION/2008-2010

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 09V-284

**Mfg's Report Date:** July 21, 2009

**Components:** STEERING:HYDRAULIC POWER ASSIST SYSTEM

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 9,117

**Summary:**

BLUE BIRD IS RECALLING 9,117 MODEL YEAR 2008 THROUGH 2010 VISION SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM MARCH 27, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 10, 2009. THE LID GASKET ON THE POWER STEERING RESERVOIR MAY DETERIORATE AND CONTAMINATE THE POWER STEERING FLUID WHICH COULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF POWER STEERING ASSIST.

**Consequence:**

LOSS OF POWER STEERING ASSIST COULD RESULT IN A VEHICLE CRASH.

**Remedy:**

BLUE BIRD WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPAIR THE BUSES FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 18, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 1-478-422-2242.

**Notes:**

BLUE BIRD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NO. R09PH. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

This recall is the result of an investigation, PE09-029, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contacts for this recall will Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-9525 or 202-366-5227, or by email at [Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement