



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

August 13, 2009

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

NVS-215kjs  
09V-328

**SUBJECT: OFFSET LEG BARRIER PADS OR 2/3 SEAT BACK/FMVSS 222**

**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 noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 222, "School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection," in the vehicles described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

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/ALL AMERICAN/2004-2010  
BLUE BIRD/CONVENTIONAL/2004-2008  
BLUE BIRD/MICRO BIRD/2008-2010  
BLUE BIRD/VISION/2004-2010

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 09V-328

**Mfg's Report Date:** August 12, 2009

**Components:** SEATS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 37,095

**Summary:**

BLUE BIRD IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2004 THROUGH 2010 ALL AMERICAN, VISION, MICRO BIRD, AND CONVENTIONAL SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN JANUARY 30, 2003 AND MAY 7, 2009. INCORRECT OFFSET LEG BARRIER PADS OR 2/3 SEAT BACK PADS MAY HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. BUSES WITH INCORRECT PADS INSTALLED FAIL

TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 222, "SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER SEATING AND CRASH PROTECTION."

**Consequence:**

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, THERE IS AN INCREASED RISK OF INJURY TO THE SEAT OCCUPANT(S).

**Remedy:**

BLUE BIRD WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND THE BUSES WILL BE REPAIRED FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 30, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 1-478-422-2242.

**Notes:**

BLUE BIRD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS R09PM. 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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The information in your noncompliance 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 be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 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 for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

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