



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 20, 2009

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

NVS-215kjs
09V-450

SUBJECT: INCORRECT TIRE AND LOADING PLACARD

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. 110, "Tire selection and Rims," for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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/MICRO BIRD/2006-2010

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-450

Mfg's Report Date: November 19, 2009

Components: EQUIPMENT:OTHER:LABELS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 376

Summary:

CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2006 THROUGH 2010 BLUE BIRD MICRO BIRD SINGLE REAR WHEEL MODEL SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM AUGUST 31, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2009, FAIL TO CONFORM TO FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 110, "TIRE SELECTION AND RIMS." IF THE VEHICLE IS NOT EQUIPPED WITH A SPARE TIRE, THEN THE TIRE AND LOADING PLACARD SHOULD INDICATE "NONE" UNDER THE SIZE AND RECOMMENDED TIRE INFLATION PRESSURE. THE PLACARD

LISTED INFLATION PRESSURE FOR A SPARE TIRE THAT WAS THE SAME AS THE FRONT TIRE INFLATION PRESSURE.

Consequence:

INFLATION PRESSURE REQUIRED FOR THE REAR TIRES COULD BE HIGHER THAN THE FRONT TIRE WHICH COULD CAUSE PREMATURE TIRE WEAR RESULTING IN A POTENTIAL TIRE FAILURE, INCREASING THE RISK OF A VEHICLE CRASH.

Remedy:

BLUE BIRD WILL PROVIDE REPLACEMENT TIRE AND LOADING PLACARDS WITH THE APPROPRIATE SPARE TIRE INDICATED TO OWNERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE CAMPAIGN IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 9, 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 1-478-822-2242.

Notes:

BLUE BIRD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS R09PX. 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 campaign is the result of an investigation, OA-110-091102, conducted by the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

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, or through the office email at 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 that reads "Kelly Schuler for". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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