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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

February 16, 2009

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 February 16, 2009.

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

Respectfully,



Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator

Enclosure: 49 CFR Part 573 Notification: Blue Bird Recall R09PB Battery Cable
Chafing at Rear of Engine

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION

P.O. Box 937 • Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

Phone: (478) 825-2021

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: February 16, 2009

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 2007 and 2008 model year "Vision" conventional school buses equipped with Caterpillar C7 engines manufactured from March 29, 2006 through December 03, 2007.

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

4,591

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The main battery power cable may chafe against engine components at the rear of the engine which could result in a direct short with potential for fire.

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

On December 16, 2008 Blue Bird received a report that a fire had occurred on a 2008 model year "Vision" model conventional bus in Hopewell Virginia.

On January 05, 2009 Blue Bird contacted dealers to inspect units on their lot.

On January 12, 2009 Blue Bird contracted with an outside firm to conduct an inspection of the battery power cables on Blue Bird Vision school buses in Georgia.

On January 15, 2009 the outside firm reported it had inspected 33 buses. There were no instances found of the battery cable chafing against the rear of the engine or engine components.

On January 19, 2009 the Blue Bird dealers reported a total of 27 units were inspected. There were no instances of the battery power cable chafing found.

On February 11, 2009, although no units were found with battery power cables chafing, Blue Bird decided to initiate a safety recall to inspect the subject battery cables on all suspect buses.

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

The battery power cables at the rear of the engine on the suspect buses will be inspected and corrected as necessary.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on March 12, 2009.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on March 12, 2009.
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R09PB

10. Dealer and Owner Notification:

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, Corporate Recall Administrator