



June 05, 2009

Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

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 on June 05, 2009 to the attention of Kelly Schuler.

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 R09PE Vandal Lock
Starter Inhibit Noncompliance

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Noncompliance Report

Report Date: June 05, 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:

Certain 2003 through 2010 model year Blue Bird All American rear engine school buses equipped with optional plug style vandal lock manufactured from July 16, 2003 through April 10, 2009.

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

2,203

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

100%

5. The noncompliance consists of:

The plug style vandal lock is not wired to inhibit the starter at the ignition switch when the vandal lock is in the locked position as required by FMVSS 571.217 S5.2.3.3

6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the noncompliance:

We were notified by our manufacturing group that they were able to start a vehicle with the vandal lock engaged through the start switch at the rear run box. Engineering was able to replicate this issue and found a design error that occurred when we changed the rear run box design switch in July 2003. Design changes have been made to address this compliance issue.

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

A wiring circuit will be added from the rear run box to the front electrical panel to inhibit the starter at the ignition switch when the vandal lock plug is in the locked position.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on June 22, 2009

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on June 22, 2009

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R09PE

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

William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator