



July, 21, 2009

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

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR

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 July 21, 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 R09PH Power Steering Reservoir Gasket

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: 07-21-09

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 2008-2010 model years "Vision" conventional school buses manufactured from March 27, 2007 through June 10, 2009.

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

9,117

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The lid gasket on the power steering reservoir assembly may deteriorate and contaminate the power steering fluid which could result in a loss of power steering assist. The loss of power steering assist could result in a vehicle crash.

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

On March 27, 2009, Blue Bird received reports by phone of gaskets swelling and possibly deteriorating. Blue Bird initiated a review of the gasket material and fluid compatibility.

Blue Bird arranged for testing to be conducted at an independent lab for an analysis of the material of the failed gaskets that had been returned. Power steering fluid from units with deteriorating gaskets was also tested to determine if incompatible fluid had been added to the system.

In discussions with the vendor, the vendor indicated some gaskets may have been manufactured with incorrect material substituted by one of their suppliers.

The vendor recommended a new gasket material. Blue Bird requested test be conducted to determine if the new material was suitable for the application. The test results were favorable and the new gasket material was approved for use in the power steering system.

On July 15, 2009 Blue Bird authorized a recall to replace all power steering reservoir gaskets on the subject model buses.

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

The original power steering lid gasket will be replaced with a new gasket manufactured of approved material.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about August 18, 2009
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about August 18, 2009
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R09PH

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