



BLUE BIRD

**R09PB**

**DATE: APRIL 02, 2009**

**TO: U.S. DEALERS**

**SUBJECT: RECALL R09PB BATTERY POWER CABLE ROUTING**

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists on 2007 and 2008 model year "Vision" conventional school buses manufactured from March 29, 2006 through December 03, 2007 and equipped with Caterpillar C7 engines.

On the subject buses, the main battery power cable may have been improperly routed and/or retained at the rear of the engine. If the cable is improperly routed and/or retained, the battery power cable could chafe against components at the rear of the engine which could result in a direct short with potential for fire.

Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect. Buses with this defect must be modified according to the enclosed instructions for Recall R09PB

If our records indicate affected buses were delivered in your service area, a printout identifying affected buses is enclosed. **Dealers should verify correct owners and assure that complete shipping addresses are provided for each listed vehicle.**

If you have in your possession or have sold a bus that was purchased from another dealer that may be affected by this recall, please notify me at 478-822-2242.

Labor time required to inspect the routing of the battery power cable is 0.3 hrs (18 minutes).

Labor time required to reroute and reposition the battery power cable is 0.4 hrs (24 minutes) per bus.

Labor time required to reposition transmission plate, if needed, is 0.5 hours (30 minutes) per bus.

**Note: The button ties will be included with the owner letters.** Other parts, if needed, will need to be requested from Recall Administration. You will need to provide body number(s) and shipping address.

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

P.O. Box 937 • Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 • (478) 825-2021

Warranty applications for labor reimbursement may be submitted to Blue Bird iWarranty (Campaigns/Claims).

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Dealers are reminded of their responsibilities under section 154 of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1991. Dealers are required to complete modifications on units in their inventory before delivering to the final owner. Reference Blue Bird Body Company Distributor Memo No. 42-92.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Coleman".

Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
Blue Bird Corporation



# Battery Cable Routing **RECALL**

**MODELS AFFECTED:** 2007-2008 BBCV with Caterpillar C7 Engines

## ISSUE

Battery cables may chafe against rear of engine resulting in a direct short with a potential for fire.

## CORRECTIVE ACTION

Inspect battery cables for chafing at the rear of engine. If chaffing is found, contact Blue Bird Recall Administration.

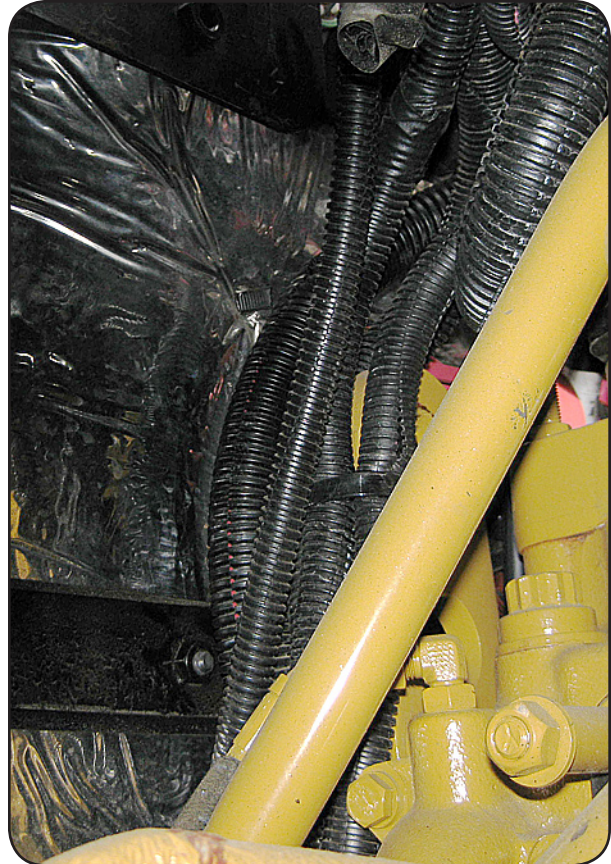
## PROCEDURE

**WARNING** Always follow all federal, state, local, and shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing this procedure.

- 1** Park vehicle on level surface with front tires straight forward. Remove key and chock the wheels.
- 2** Open the battery compartment and disconnect the battery ground and positive cables from the battery terminals.

**CAUTION** When disconnecting the batteries, remove the Negative cable first.

- 3** Open the engine hood and locate the following cables at the rear of the engine:
  - All battery cables leading from the battery compartment to the Power Distribution Unit.
  - All battery cables leading from the battery compartment to the Drivers Control Module on the driver's side of the engine.
  - All cables leading from the Driver's Control Module to the starter.



*This procedure requires thorough inspection of all battery cables for abrasion damage in the area at the rear of the engine*

- 4** Thoroughly inspect all the cables identified in step 3 for indications of contact with and/or chaffing against the rear of the engine. Ensure there is a minimum of 1/2" clearance between the battery cables and any part of the engine.

## PARTS

PART NUMBER	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
00040818	*	Protector, Hose/Harness
00029999	*	Cable Tie, 14.75 L x .22W
00024076	2	Button Head Cable Tie, 14.75 L x .22 W

\* Contact Blue Bird Recall Administration.

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S E R V I C E R E C A L L

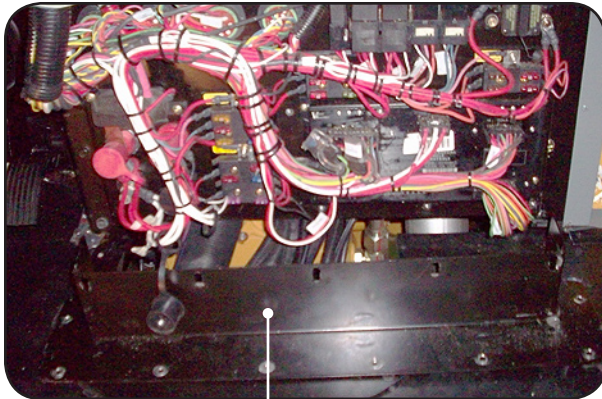
**5** If any of the cables have been found to be chaffed, remove the vehicle from service and contact Blue Bird Recall Administration for parts to replace the damaged cable(s).

**WARNING** Do not operate a bus with a chaffed battery cable.

**6** Inspect from inside the bus as follows:

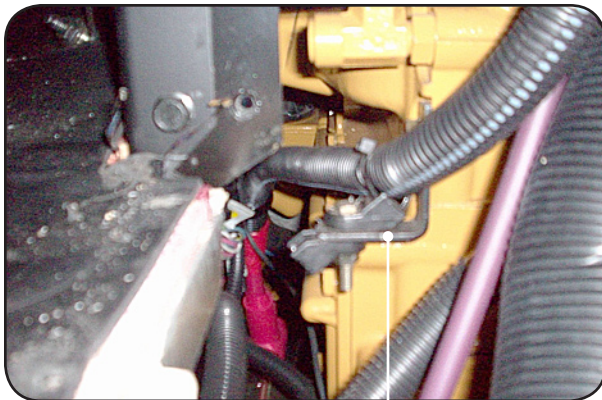
6.1 Remove the Power Distribution Unit (PDU) cover.

6.2 Remove the fasteners securing the lower cover panel to the PDU.



Lower cover panel

6.3 On the driver's side of the PDU, locate the L-shaped bracket attached to the engine, shown below.



L-shaped bracket

A saddle block is bolted to this bracket, and supports a battery cable, attached by a cable tie. Inspect the battery cable for contact with the saddle block's mounting bolt or with any portion of the engine, as follows:

- If any chaffing or other damage is evident, perform **Sub Procedure A: Cable Protector Installation**.

- If no chaffing or other damage is evident, but clearance between the cable(s) and any part of the engine is less than 1/2", reposition and secure the cable to obtain 1/2" clearance. If the cable cannot be repositioned, perform **Sub Procedure A: Cable Protector Installation**.

- If the L-shaped bracket, saddle block, nut, washer and cable tie are present and there is no evidence of contact or damage to the battery cable, and the required 1/2" clearance is provided, proceed to Step 7.

**7** Continue inspecting from inside the bus, as follows:

7.1 Remove the fasteners which mount the PDU. Carefully slide the right side of the PDU rearward far enough to view the wiring behind the engine.

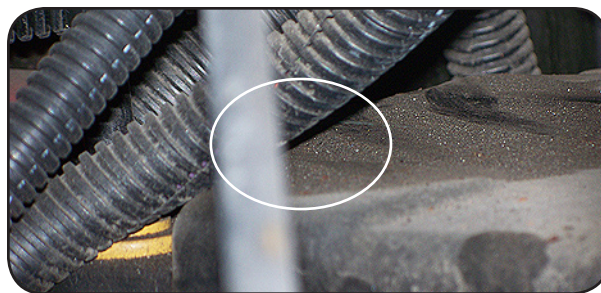


PDU pulled outward at right side to gain access to cables at rear of engine

7.2 Locate the two button-head cable ties which secure battery cables to the PDU. If either of the button-head cable ties are broken, missing, or damaged during the removal of the PDU, install new button-head cable ties (0024706) before reinstalling the PDU.



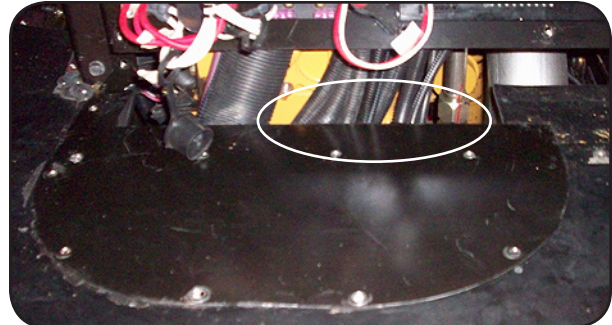
7.3 Inspect the battery cables for any evidence of contact with the rear of the engine, chaffing, or other damage. (Some harnesses may be attached to the engine lifting eye; those are not battery cables.)



Example of battery cable loom resting against engine

- If no damage is evident, and the required 1/2" minimum clearance is provided, proceed to step 8.
- If clearance between the cable(s) and any part of the engine is less than 1/2", perform **Sub Procedure A: Cable Protector Installation**.

7.4 Inspect all the harnesses passing under the front edge of the transmission cover, as follows:



Area of possible cable damage against front edge of transmission cover plate

- If no contact between the transmission cover and harnesses is evident, proceed to step 8.
- If any evidence is found of chaffing or other damage due to contact against the transmission cover, perform **Sub Procedure B: Relocate Transmission Cover**.

**8** Only after all the above-described inspections are complete, and all occurrences of battery cable damage and/or proximity to engine surfaces less than 1/2" have been corrected as described in this procedure, reassemble removed components:

8.1 Reinstall the Power Distribution Unit.

**WARNING** If the button head cables ties attached to the Power Distribution Unit were found to be damaged, these MUST be replaced to secure the wires against the Power Distribution Unit.

8.2 Reinstall the lower cover panel between the Power Distribution Unit and the transmission plate with the existing fasteners.

**CAUTION** Ensure that no wires are pinched between the lower cover panel and the Power Distribution Unit.

8.3 Reinstall the Power Distribution Unit cover. Close the engine hood. Reconnect batteries.

**CAUTION** When reconnecting the batteries, connect the Negative cable last.

The procedure is complete, and the bus may be returned to normal service.



## SUB PROCEDURE A: INSTALL CABLE PROTECTOR

**1** If any evidence of cable loom contact with the engine, chafing, or other damage is evident, or if clearance between the battery cable(s) and any part of the engine is less than the required minimum ½" but cannot be repositioned, inspect further to determine the extent of damage:

- If the loom has been rubbed, but no damage to the battery cable inside has occurred, then install cable protector (BB # 0040818) between the engine and battery cable. Wrap the protector around the cable loom and secure it with two Cable Ties (BB # 0029999) as shown below.



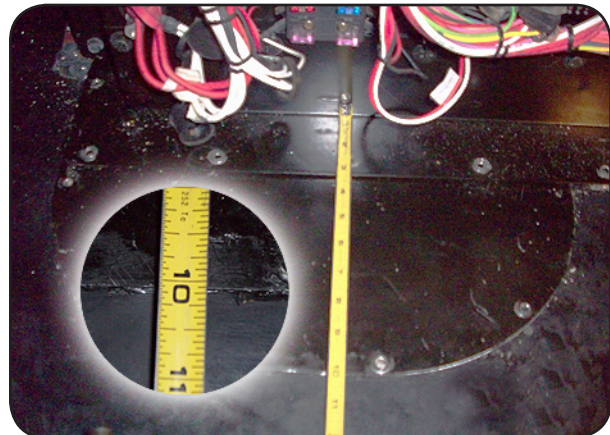
- If any chaffing or other damage to the battery cable is evident, remove the vehicle from service and contact Blue Bird Recall Administration for parts to replace the damaged cable.

**WARNING** do not operate a bus with a chaffed battery cable.

## SUB PROCEDURE B: RELOCATE TRANSMISSION COVER

**1** If any contact between battery cables and the transmission cover is evident after the inspection described in step 7.4, relocate the Transmission cover as follows:

- 8.1 Remove the fasteners for the transmission cover plate.
- 8.2 Slide the transmission cover plate rearward approximately ½".
- 8.3 Install the lower cover panel between the Power Distribution Unit and the transmission plate with the existing fasteners.
- 8.4 Slide the transmission cover plate rearward until the rear of the transmission cover plate is 10" from the vertical surface of the lower panel.



- 8.5 Using a .218" drill bit with a drill stop set at 1 ¼", using the transmission plate as a guide, drill new attaching holes for the transmission cover plate. Reinstall the transmission cover plate in the new location, using the original fasteners.

**CAUTION** A drill stop must be used if drill bit is longer than 1 ¼", to prevent accidental drilling through hoses and wiring beneath the transmission panel. Install the fasteners removed in earlier step.

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