



BLUE BIRD

## NOTIFICATION OF UNREMEDIED SAFETY DEFECT ON YOUR BLUE BIRD SCHOOL BUSES

**DATE:** May 12, 2011

**TO:** BLUE BIRD OWNERS

**SUBJECT:** RECALL R09PS STOP ARM LED LIGHT PREMATURE FAILURES

According to our records, the important recall remedy work necessary to remove the safety defect on your Blue Bird school buses you own or operate has not been performed.

This safety defect concerns the stop arm lights on certain 2009 model year All American, Vision and Micro Bird school buses manufactured from April 18, 2008 through January 13, 2009 and equipped with Specialty Manufacturing, Inc. (SMI) stop arms with LED lights manufactured by SMI from March 31, 2008 and December 18, 2008.

According to SMI the stop arm LED light wires may separate rendering the LED lights inoperable. Should the LED lights stop functioning, visibility of a stopped bus would be decreased, possibly endangering a child or pedestrian to injury by passing vehicles resulting in the potential for personal injury. Your affected buses are identified by Blue Bird body number on the enclosed yellow reply sheet for Recall R09PS.

We urge you to have this recall remedy applied to your affected buses as soon as possible. This recall work will be performed at no cost to you. Please contact your Blue Bird dealer to have this recall work performed by an authorized dealer. Or, you may performed this recall yourself.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to perform the remedy yourself, please consult the attached Recall R09PS notification that contains the instructions. Once you have completed the work, please complete and mail the enclosed R09PS completion reply sheet to us in the enclosed postage paid pink reply envelope so we may update our recall records. **Be sure to include your Blue Bird body number and the date repaired.**

**Note: the United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is concerned about the completion rate of recalls, especially on school buses. It may decide to contact those owner/operators that have not had the free recall repair work as described in Recall R09PS instructions completed within 30 days of this notice.**

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021



R09PS

September 24, 2009

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 certain 2009 model year All American, Vision and Micro Bird school buses manufactured from April 18, 2008 through January 13, 2009 and equipped with Specialty Manufacturing, Inc. (SMI) stop arms with LED lights manufactured by SMI from March 31, 2008 and December 18, 2008.

According to SMI the stop arm LED light wires may separate rendering the LED lights inoperable. Should the LED lights stop functioning, visibility of a stopped bus would be decreased, possibly endangering a child or pedestrian to injury by passing vehicles resulting in the potential for personal injury.

**Only LED light kits with SMI manufacturing date codes between J08030 and J08332 are affected.** Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect. Inspection and installation instruction are attached.

You may contact your Blue Bird dealer for assistance or you may perform this recall yourself. You may also have a qualified repair facility convenient to you perform this recall. A qualified technician should perform this recall. Instructions for replacing defective light assemblies are attached.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the **pink** reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

To obtain replacement LED light kits for affected LED lights you may use one of the following methods:

1. Web: Visit SMI's website: [http://www.smiglobal.net/tech\\_bulletins.php](http://www.smiglobal.net/tech_bulletins.php) and click on the 000290 Recall Campaign link under **Stop Arms and Blades** section and complete the form.
2. Email: You may send an e-mail to SMI at [warranty@smiglobal.net](mailto:warranty@smiglobal.net) indicating the quantity of LED light kits you have for return, your complete shipping address, contact name, and phone number, and if applicable vehicle VIN.
3. Phone: Contact SMI Warranty Service at 1-800-9517867, Option 7 for a materials Authorization (RMA) number.

**BLUE BIRD CORPORATION**

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

Phone: (478) 825-2021

Specialty Manufacturing, Inc. will reimburse installers \$15.00 for each 000290 LED Light Kit replaced. Reimbursement for installation will take place upon SMI's receipt of the defective unit(s) at its Warranty Center. You will need to contact SMI Warranty Service at 1-800-951-7867, option 7 for a Return Materials Authorization (RMA) number.

If SMI does not provide reimbursement you may contact Blue Bird Body Company Recall Administration at 478-822-2242.

**Important: Be sure to complete the attached recall completion sheet and return to Blue Bird Recall Administration or send an email to [bill.coleman@blue-bird.com](mailto:bill.coleman@blue-bird.com) with the body number, light assembly date code and date completed so our records may be updated. You may also fax the completed form to 478-822-2467.**

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

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attached a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the **pink** self-addressed postage paid envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236  
TTY 1-800-424-9153

Or, go to: [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV)

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

Thank you,



Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
**BLUE BIRD CORPORATION**





# Specialty Manufacturing Inc. LED Light Kit Safety Campaign Bulletin

## Model 000290 LED Light Kit and Safety Stop Arm assemblies incorporating this kit (see attached listing)

SMI is recalling LED Light Kits on “Specialty” brand School Bus Stop Arms manufactured between March 31, 2008 and December 18, 2008 (refer to **Figure 1**), and Light Kits manufactured between Date Code J08030 and J08332 (refer to **Figure 2**) due to the potential for reduced service life. This recall bulletin includes Light Kits installed on buses or new, unused Light Kits in white factory boxes (refer to **Figure 3**). All units meet the requirements of FMVSS 131, but may be subject to reduced service life.

**Note:** All certified replacement Light Kits will be designated by a ¼” black band at the “Y” joint (refer to **Figure 4**). Units with this designation are not subject to reduced service life and are not covered by this recall.

**Figure 1**



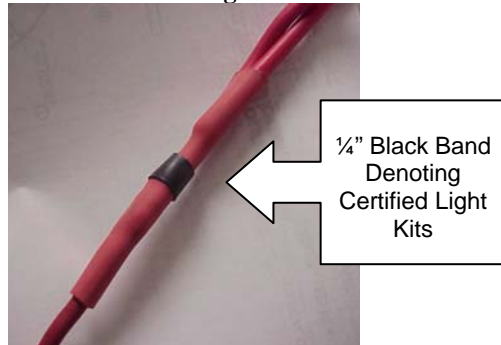
**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**



To expedite the repair or replacement of suspect LED Light Kits, request replacement kits by contacting SMI Warranty Service using one of the three methods outlined below.

- **Web:** Point your Web browser to [http://www.smiglobal.net/tech\\_bulletins.php](http://www.smiglobal.net/tech_bulletins.php) and click on the **000290 Recall Campaign** link under the **Stop Arms & Blades** section.
- **E-mail:** Send an e-mail to SMI at [warranty@smiglobal.net](mailto:warranty@smiglobal.net) indicating the quantity of LED light kits you have for return, your complete shipping address, contact name and phone number, and, if applicable, vehicle VIN number.
- **Phone:** Contact SMI Warranty Service Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm, EST at 1-800-951-7867, Option 7 for a Return Materials Authorization (RMA) number.

## SMI Stop Arm Assemblies incorporating 000290 LED Light Kits

<u>Model</u>	<u>Description</u>
000290	KIT-LED STROBING STOP ARM
000580	BLADE ASSY-REFL W/STRB/LED LTS
002380	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT
002380C	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT
002381	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT,RR MT
002381C	S/A-AIR, DIA GRD W/STRB LED LT, C2
002970	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED
002970B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED
002970C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED,
002970R	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/NON-STRB LED, RT-RR
002971	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002971B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002971C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,RR
002974	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,ARR
002974B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT,NON-STB LED,ARR
002980	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STROBING LED
002980B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STB LED,BBIRD
002980C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,C2
002981	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M
002981B	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M
002981C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,RR-M, C2
002984C	S/A-AIR,HI-INT W/STRB LED,ARRET,C2
005970C	S/A-ELEC,HI-INT BLD,NON-STB LED,C2
005970M	S/A-5.5 SER,HI-IN,NON-STB LED
005980C	S/A-ELEC,HI-INT BLD,STB LED,C2
005980M	S/A-ELEC 5.5 S,HI-INT,STB LED
005981M	S/A-5.5 SER,HI-IN,STB LED,RR
005988M	S/A-ELEC 5.5 S,HI-INT,STB LED,8"STOP
006380	S/A-SLD ST,DIA GRD,STRB LED
006970	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,NON-STRB LED
006971	S/A-SLD ST,H.I.,NON-STB LED,RR
006974	S/A-SLD,HI INT,N-STB LED ARRET
006980	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,STROBING LED
006981	S/A-SLD ST,HI INT,STB LED,RR-M

To expedite the repair or replacement of products in the field, please follow the steps below.

**NOTE:** Light Kits outside the date range specified in this safety campaign are subject to SMI's Standard Warranty Policy. Your SMI warranty representative will assist you with any questions.

- Service kits are available immediately and may be requested by one of three methods outlined above.
- **DO NOT RETURN LIGHT KITS UNTIL REPLACEMENT LIGHT KITS HAVE ARRIVED.** Returned in-service Light Kits must be placed into the **brown** replacement kit boxes for shipment to the warranty center (refer to Figure 5).

Figure 5



- All in-service lights w/gaskets (four per assembly) must be placed in the enclosed bags (one light per bag).
- All returned kits must be **complete** with no missing components. **(4) Lights (4) Gaskets**
- Write the RMA number in the space provided on the return box label and check the boxes confirming the contents.

RMA# _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Lights in bags
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Gaskets

- New, unused product must be returned in original white cartons (refer to Figure 3) and over-boxed in corrugated shipping boxes.
- Return all Light Kits using the UPS ARS return shipping label enclosed in each box. This label may be used for individual or master pack return shipments.

**ALL QUALIFYING LIGHT KITS MUST BE RETURNED TO:**

**Warranty Center  
3900 Central Parkway  
Hudsonville, MI 49426**

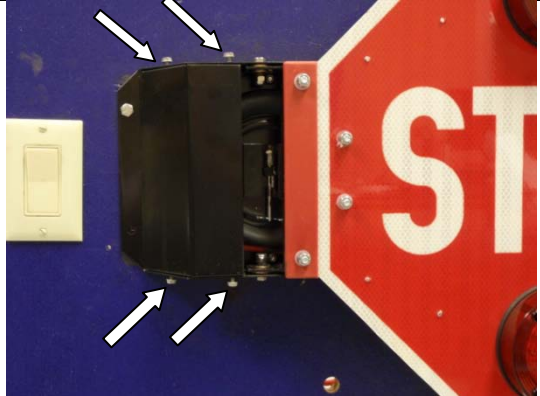
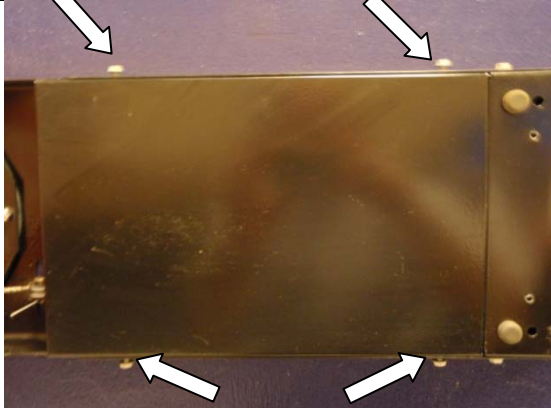

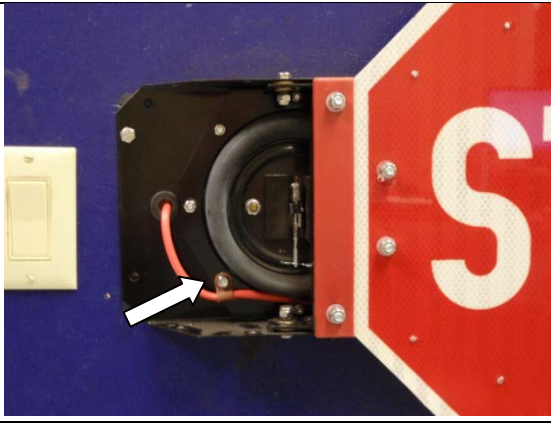
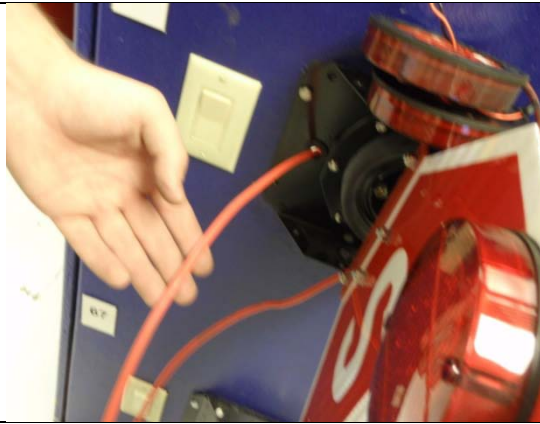
### **STOP ARM WIRING CONFIGURATION**

- When installing replacements, the wiring should be routed in the same configuration as original OEM installation to provide proper clearances.





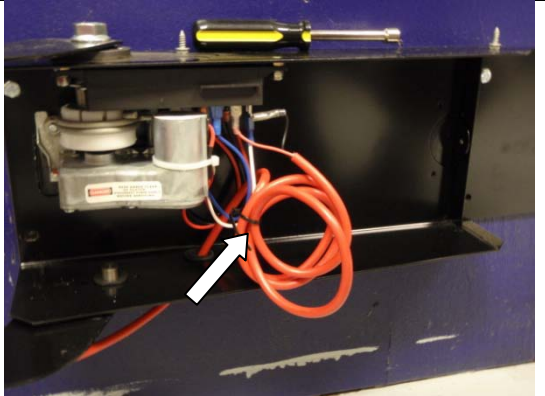
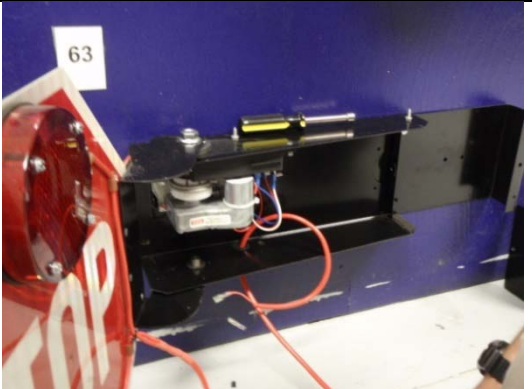
TECHNICAL BULLETIN -  
*SUBJECT: Replacing 290 light kits on Specialty Stop Arms*

Effective Date: 05/05/09 Revised Date: --/--/--

<p>AIR UNITS</p>	
	<p>1. Using a 5/16" wrench or driver, remove the 4 screws holding the front cover on.</p>
	
<p>2. Using a 5/16" wrench or driver, remove the four screws that hold the center cover on.</p>	<p>3. Remove the spring from the cable so that the blade will remain open while changing lights.</p>
	
<p>4. Using a 3/8" wrench or driver, remove the nut that holds the wire clip to the diaphragm plate.</p>	<p>5. Pull the wire through the grommet and disconnect from the bus, make note of what each wire plugs into for reinstallation. Proceed to step 6.</p>



TECHNICAL BULLETIN -  
*SUBJECT: Replacing 290 light kits on Specialty Stop Arms*  
Effective Date: 05/05/09 Revised Date: --/--/--

<p>ELECTRIC UNITS</p>	
	<p>1. Using a 5/16" wrench or driver, remove the screw that holds the rear of the cover on the unit. (if equipped with windguard, remove as well with same tool.)</p>
	
<p>2. Using a 5/16" wrench or driver, remove the screw that holds the front of the cover on the unit.</p>	<p>3. Remove the cover and cut the tie holding the light wires together. Note that the red wire from lights plugs into "Strobe +", and the black into "Strobe - or GND"</p>
	
<p>4. Pull light wire through the grommet to remove from unit. Proceed to step 10.</p>	<p>5. Proceed to step 6.</p>



TECHNICAL BULLETIN -  
*SUBJECT: Replacing 290 light kits on Specialty Stop Arms*  
Effective Date: 05/05/09 Revised Date: --/--/--

<p>6. Using a 1/4" wrench or driver, remove the 4 screws holding the wire clips to the blade.</p>	<p>7. Using a 1/4" wrench or driver, remove the 4 screws from each of the two light sets.</p>
<p>8. Disconnect the wires between the two lights, and remove all 4 lights from the blade.</p>	<p>9. Note the date code on the back of the lights to make sure they fall within the specified range.</p>
	<p><b>DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN FASTENERS.</b> (Screws through the lenses should be tightened to 15 in-lbs)</p>
<p>10. Reverse the process to install the new lights. Note that the longer lead light is mounted to the top of the blade.</p>	<p>11. Also make sure to note that each light has a designated top and needs to be oriented as such. (Remember to reconnect the spring on air units.)</p>