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10V-057
(3 pages)



BLUE BIRD

February 25, 2010

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 on February 25, 2010 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

Enclosure: 49 CFR Part 573 Notification: Blue Bird Recall R10RM Rear Interior
Bulkhead Panels Joint Strength Noncompliance

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



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**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting
Noncompliance Report**

Report Date: February 25, 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 Blue Bird 2010 model year All American rear engine model school buses manufactured at Fort Valley, GA. from August 27, 2009 through January 25, 2010.

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

31

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

Unknown

5. The noncompliance consist of:

The interior rear bulkhead panels may not comply with FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements. Adhesive required to meet FMVSS 221 was inadvertently omitted from these joints on the affected population.

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

On January 22, 2010 Blue Bird discovered that the joints of the interior rear bulkhead panels may not meet FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements.

A subsequent review of the manufacturing process and design for the installation of the subject interior rear panels was conducted and it was determined that changes would be required in order to meet FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements.

On February 22, 2010 Blue Bird made the decision to issue a recall to dealers and owners to correct this noncompliance.



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

The rear interior bulkhead panels will be removed, adhesive applied and panels reinstalled. One new panel will be required and supplied.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification letters are scheduled to be mailed on or about March 26, 2009.
Owner notification letters are scheduled to be mailed on or about March 26, 2009.

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R10RM

10. 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 Body Company
P.O. Box 937
Fort Valley GA 31030
(478) 822-2242

Signed: _____

William P. Coleman

William P. Coleman, Recall Administrator