



**BLUE BIRD**

April 01, 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 reports. These reports were emailed to NHTSA on April 01, 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 R10RT Ricon Wheelchair Lift Restraint Belt Latch defect reports for school bus units and non-school bus units.

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

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



## **PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting**

### **Noncompliance Report**

**Report Date:** April 01, 2010

**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 through 2011 model year Blue Bird All American, Conventional and Micro-Bird school buses manufactured from December 13, 2007 through January 18, 2010 equipped with either a Ricon Corporation Model S or K Series Public Use wheelchair lifts.

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

1,622

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

unknown

**5. The noncompliance consists of:**

The restraint belt utilized on the subject lifts was designed to prevent the lift from moving unless the tongue of the belt is fully engaged and latched in the buckle. However, Ricon discovered that it is possible to insert the belt tongue into the buckle without fully engaging the latching mechanism. Should this happen it would appear to be latched and the operator could run the lift with an occupant on the platform. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operations, the wheelchair or mobility aid user could be injured

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

Ricon Corporation notified Blue Bird that it had initiated a recall (NHTSA 09E-060) relating to a defect with the restraint belt latch and buckle used with certain DOT Public Use S & K Series wheelchair lifts.

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

Blue Bird will notify owners to contact their Ricon dealer. Ricon will provide customers with a warning decal and a DVD-based training aid at no cost to owners.

**8. Notification will be as follows:**

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about May 01, 2010.  
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about May 01, 2010.

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

R10RT

**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

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