



BLUE BIRD

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10V-289
(3 pages)

49 CFR PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: 06-28-10

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Blue Bird Body Company
P. O. Box 937
Fort Valley, GA 31030

2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Certain 2008 through 2010 model year Blue Bird "All American" and "Vision" model conventional **school buses** manufactured from May 23, 2007 through March 09, 2010 and equipped with Caterpillar C707 engines.

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

3,686

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

Unknown, but 100 percent of the subject buses will be recalled and have #5 and #6 fuel lines replaced and a new clamp added to #5 fuel line.

5. The defect consists of:

As described in Caterpillar's notification the #5 and #6 fuel lines may crack at the fastening point to the common fuel rail and cause a fuel leak, which may result in a potential fire hazard.



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

While investigating reports of thermal events on several vehicles, Blue Bird learned that some of the subject buses, as well as other buses in the same fleets, had experienced fuel line leaks or recently had fuel line repairs performed by Caterpillar. On May 20, 2010, while discussing these thermal events with NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation, Blue Bird learned for the first time that Caterpillar issued Service Letter PI31708, *Product Improvement Campaign for Replacing Fuel Lines 5 and 6 on Certain C7 Engines*. Service Letter PI31708 advises owners of certain engines listed in the bulletin (many of which are installed on Blue Bird buses) to replace fuel lines 5 and 6 due to the possibility that fuel may leak and cause a loss of power.

Subsequently, on May 26, 2010, NHTSA forwarded to Blue Bird a copy of a Caterpillar "Special Instruction" entitled "Replacement of High Pressure Fuel Lines on C7 Engines." (Blue Bird had not previously received a copy of the bulletin.) This Special Instruction provides instructions for replacing one or more fuel high pressure fuel lines on C7 engines, and cites the potential risk of fire from high pressure fuel leaks.

Blue Bird has been consulting with Caterpillar regarding these bulletins and the potential safety risk, including risk of fire, related to the underlying condition.

On June 22, 2010 Caterpillar Inc. notified NHTSA and Blue Bird that it will be conducting a safety recall to address the issue described in Service Letter PI31708. Reference Caterpillar's Part 573 Defect Notification dated June 22, 2010.

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

Caterpillar will issue the safety recall and will notify customers using a Safety Product Improvement Program (the Caterpillar process used) to replace #5 and # 6 fuel lines and add a new clamp to #5 fuel line on the subject engines.

Blue Bird will assist Caterpillar by providing owner information from its database to supplement owner information on Caterpillar's database.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Owner notification will be conducted by Caterpillar as prescribed in its 49 CFR Part 573 filing. Blue Bird will subsequently notify its dealers of this recall. A representative copy of dealer communications will be submitted to NHTSA.

Caterpillar will file quarterly reports with NHTSA since claims for modifications will be filed through Caterpillar's warranty system. Please see Caterpillar's Defect Notification for more information regarding the notification schedule and remedy plan.



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

R10RZ

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