



PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: December 16, 2010
Report Date Revised: January 20, 2011

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 2011 model year Blue Bird "Vision" model school buses manufactured from November 13, 2009 through December 15, 2010 and equipped with hydraulic brakes.

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

1,001

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

On some buses the mechanical parking brake pedal may deform upon application which may prevent the parking brake from fully applying. This condition may permit the bus to roll unexpectedly when parked which could result in property damage, personal injury or death to passersby.

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

On November 15, 2010, Blue Bird received a letter from a customer indicating the foot applied mechanical parking brake used on buses equipped with hydraulic brakes deformed when applied and did not set the parking brake which allowed the bus to roll back and strike the bus behind it.

Blue Bird Engineering contacted the supplier regarding the deformation issue. The pedal supplier responded the pedal, in its current form, had been used by various customers for years with no complaints.



Further investigation by Blue Bird found that when the driver's cockpit was redesigned for 2010 model year, the parking brake pedal was oriented further outboard. This positioning could allow side loading of the pedal assembly when the parking brake was applied.

The supplier (Bendix) developed a bracket to relocate the parking brake assembly to eliminate the side load stress.

On December 16, 2010 Blue Bird decided to conduct a recall to correct this condition on the subject buses.

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

A relocating bracket will be installed on the parking brake assembly on all affected buses. If the parking brake pedal is already deformed, a new replacement pedal assembly will be installed.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be issued on February 07, 2011.
Owner notification is scheduled to be issued on February 07, 2011.
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R11SV

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