



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 8, 2011

MR. WILLIAM COLEMAN
RECALL ADMINISTRATOR
BLUE BIRD CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 937
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

NVS-215kjs
11V-218

SUBJECT: STARTER CABLE CHAFE

DEAR MR. COLEMAN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Blue Bird Corporation's (Blue Bird) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect in the vehicles listed below for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

BLUE BIRD/VISION/2004-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-218 **Mfg's Report Date:** April 5, 2011

Components: ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: INSTRUMENT PANEL

Potential Number of Units Affected: 3,919

Summary:

BLUE BIRD IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2004 THROUGH 2006 VISION CONVENTIONAL STYLE SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM JUNE 26, 2003, THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2004. THE STARTER CABLE MAY CONTACT AND POTENTIALLY CHAFE AGAINST THE STEEL BRAIDED POWER STEERING HOSE THEREBY CREATING A DIRECT SHORT.

Consequence:

A SHORT COULD RESULT IN A FIRE.

Remedy:

BLUE BIRD WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE SUBJECT BUSES FOR PROPER CLEARANCE BETWEEN THE STARTER CABLE AND THE POWER STEERING HOSE. BUSES FOUND TO HAVE INSUFFICIENT CLEARANCE WILL HAVE A CLAMP INSTALLED TO PREVENT FURTHER CONTACT. ANY DAMAGED POWER STEERING HOSES OR STARTER CABLES WILL BE REPLACED FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT MAY 10, 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 1-478-822-2242.

Notes:

BLUE BIRD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS R11TA. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-423 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contacts for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, or by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement