



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 13, 2011

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

NVS-215kjs  
11V-351

**SUBJECT: PARK BRAKE VALVE INTERLOCK**

**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/ALL AMERICAN/2007-2011

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 11V-351

**Mfg's Report Date:** July 8, 2011

**Components:** PARKING BRAKE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 121

**Summary:**

BLUE BIRD IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2007 THROUGH 2011 ALL AMERICAN SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED FROM SEPTEMBER 22, 2006, THROUGH AUGUST 7, 2010, AND EQUIPPED WITH OPTIONAL PARK BRAKE VALVE INTERLOCK FEATURE. THE OPTIONAL PARK BRAKE INTERLOCK VALVE MAY HAVE BEEN PLUMBED INCORRECTLY WHICH COULD RESULT IN INADVERTENT PARK BRAKE APPLICATION WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING.

**Consequence:**

INADVERTENT APPLICATION OF THE PARK BRAKE VALVE COULD CAUSE A VEHICLE CRASH WHICH COULD RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY, OR DEATH.

**Remedy:**

BLUE BIRD WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND DEALERS WILL REPAIR THE BUSES FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 8, 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 1-478-822-2242.

**Notes:**

BLUE BIRD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS R11TF. 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).

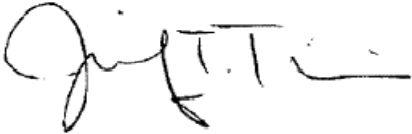
Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-5227, or by email at [Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

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