



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

October 18, 2011

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

NVS-215kjs
11V-499

SUBJECT: 39" BARRIER/2-PASSENGER SEATS

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 noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 222, "School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection," for which a safety recall campaign will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

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/2006-2012
BLUE BIRD/CONVENTIONAL/2006
BLUE BIRD/VISION/2006-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-499 **Mfg's Report Date:** October 13, 2011

Components: SEAT BARRIERS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 54

Summary:

BLUE BIRD IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2006 THROUGH 2012 ALL AMERICAN, 2006 THROUGH 2011 VISION, AND 2006 CONVENTIONAL SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 19, 2005, AND MAY 3, 2011, EQUIPPED WITH 2-PASSENGER SEATS INSTALLED FORWARD OF THE 39" BARRIER. IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, THE BARRIER MAY MAKE CONTACT WITH THE 2-PASSENGER SEAT INSTALLED FORWARD OF THE BARRIER. ACCORDINGLY, THESE BUSES FAIL TO CONFORM WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 222, "SCHOOL BUS PASSENGER SEATING AND CRASH PROTECTION."

Consequence:

THE SEAT OCCUPANTS MAY BE SERIOUSLY INJURED IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH.

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 NOVEMBER 28, 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 1-478-822-2242.

Notes:

BLUE BIRD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS R11TQ. 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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Please provide the following additional information:

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 1-202-366-5227, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ric Willard" with "for" written below it.

Ric Willard
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement