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By Recall Management Division at 1:22 pm, Mar 15, 2011

March 15, 2011

Claude Harris
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Mr. Harris,

In accordance with the requirements of CFR 49 Part 573, Blue Bird Corporation is submitting the attached noncompliance report. This report was emailed to NHTSA on March 15, 2011.

Both school bus and non-school bus reports are attached.

If you should have any questions concerning the information submitted, please contact me at 478-822-2242.

Respectfully,



Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator

Enclosure: 49 CFR Part 573 Notification: Blue Bird Recall R11SZ FMVSS 105 and
121 ABS Malfunction Indicator Light Noncompliance



BLUE BIRD

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Noncompliance Report

Report Date: March 15, 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 2007 through 2011 model year Blue Bird "Vision" conventional model school buses.

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

13,645

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

100%

5. The noncompliance consists of:

The dash instrument panel ABS indicator light does not illuminate when the ABS circuit is disconnected at the main ABS module as required by FMVSS 105 "Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems" Section 5.3.1 for buses equipped with hydraulic brakes and FMVSS 121 "Air Brake System" Section 5.1.6.2 for buses equipped with air brakes.



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6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the noncompliance:

On January 14, 2011 Blue Bird received a report by a dealer that the ABS indicator light on the dash instrument panel did not illuminate when the ABS main module was disconnected.

Upon further investigation and subsequent tests of the dash instrument panel it was determined that the software developed by the supplier for Blue Bird's application did not include illuminating the ABS malfunction indicator light when the ABS main module was disconnected. The supplier of the instrument panel is:

Stoneridge Inc.
Transportation Electronics Division
#6 Butterfield Trail
El Paso, TX 79906
(915) 592-5700

On February 17, 2011 Blue Bird began consulting with Stoneridge regarding the software provided for Blue Bird's dash instrument panel.

In February of 2011 a review of FMVSS 105 "Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems" and FMVSS 121 "Air Brake System" was begun to determine if a FMVSS noncompliance was present if the ABS malfunction indicator did not illuminate when the main ABS module was disconnected.

On March 10, 2011 Blue Bird determined that the software furnished with the dash instrument panel provided by Stoneridge did not conform to the requirements of FMVSS 105 Section 5.3.1 for buses equipped with hydraulic brakes, and FMVSS 121 Section 5.1.6.2 for buses equipped with air brakes.

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

The dash instrument panel must be reprogrammed for the ABS indicator light to illuminate when the ABS circuit is disconnected at the main ABS module. Software will be provided to dealers to update the dash programming on customer's buses.



BLUE BIRD

8. Notification will be as follows:

Blue Bird is currently working with Stoneridge for software update availability. Blue Bird will update its noncompliance report when the availability date is known. Owner notification date will be provided at that time.

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

R11SZ

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