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By Recall Management Division at 7:06 am, Apr 06, 2011

April 05, 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 April 05, 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 Notifications: Blue Bird Recall R11TA Starter Cable May Contact Power Steering Hose School bus & Non-School bus



BLUE BIRD

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report-School Bus

Report Date: 04/05/11

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 2004 through 2006 model year Blue Bird "Vision" conventional style school buses manufactured from June 26, 2003 through December 09, 2004.

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

3,919

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The starter cable may contact and potentially chafe against the steel braided power steering hose thereby creating a direct short which could result in a fire.

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

In December 2010, Blue Bird received a report from a dealer that when a customer was inspecting their 2004 model year Blue Bird Vision buses they noticed that the starter cable was close to or contacting the power steering hose. In some cases, abrasion of the power steering cable was seen.



BLUE BIRD

In January 2011, Blue Bird began conducting an inspection of 2004-2006 model year Blue Bird Vision buses to determine the extent of this condition. The inspections were completed and results finalized on March 29, 2011. Five percent of the buses inspected were found to have contact between the starter cable and power steering hose.

On April 04, 2011 Blue Bird decided to conduct a recall to correct this condition.

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

The subject buses will be inspected for proper clearance between the starter cable and the power steering hose. Buses found with insufficient clearance will have a clamp installed to prevent further contact. Any damaged power steering hoses or starter cables will be replaced.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on May 10, 2011
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on May 10, 2011
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R11TA

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, Corporate Recall Administrator