



BLUE BIRD

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11V-351
(3 pages)

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: July 08, 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 Blue Bird 2007 through 2011 model year All American model school buses manufactured from September 22, 2006 through August 07, 2010 and equipped with optional Park Brake Valve Interlock feature.

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

121

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The optional park brake interlock valve may have been plumbed incorrectly which could result in inadvertent park brake application without prior warning. Inadvertent application of the park brake valve could cause a vehicle crash which could result in property damage, personal injury or death. There have been no reports of property damage, personnel injury of death as a result of this condition.



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

On April 07, 2011 Blue Bird received a report of an inadvertent application of the park brake valve on a bus equipped with the optional park brake valve interlock. The park brake valve interlock is designed to prevent the park brake from being disengaged unless the service brake is applied. On the subject bus it was determined that the optional park brake valve interlock was plumbed incorrectly.

Blue Bird immediately began a review of complaints regarding this issue but was unable to find any other incidents.

Blue Bird also sent a representative to a nearby school district to look at the park brake valve installation. All were found to be installed correctly.

Blue Bird also began conducting tests on the brake interlock valve and discovered that under certain conditions such as when a bus hits a pot hole or speed bump the park brake valve could possibly apply.

On June 30, 2011 Blue Bird again reviewed warranty and service records and no complaints were found. However, after further deliberations Blue Bird decided that should the parking brake valve interlock be plumbed incorrectly an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety could exist.

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

All affected buses will be inspected and any found incorrect will be corrected.

8. Notification will be as follows:

On June 23, 2011 Blue Bird dealers were notified by phone to immediately inspect and, if needed, correct all affected units within their dealership territory. All affected buses are anticipated to be inspected and, if needed, corrected by Blue Bird dealers.



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

R11TF

10. Dealer and Owner Notification:

Owner notification letters will be mailed to owners that Blue Bird dealers are unable to contact by phone to arrange an inspection date. Notification letters will be mailed to those owners by August 08, 2011.

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