



RECEIVED
By Recall Management Division at 7:56 am, Oct 14, 2011

11V-499
(4 pages)

October 13, 2011

Mr. 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 FMVSS 222 noncompliance report.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on October 13, 2011.

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 Noncompliance Notification: R11TQ 39" Barrier FMVSS
Forward Performance Noncompliance Report



PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Noncompliance Report

Report Date: October 13, 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 2006 through 2011 model year Blue Bird "A3" All American model front engine school buses manufactured from November 15, 2005 through June 10, 2010 and equipped with a 2-passenger seat installed forward of 39" barrier.

Certain 2007 through 2010 model year Blue Bird "A3" All American model rear engine school buses manufactured from April 12, 2006 through June 30, 2009 and equipped with a 2-passenger seat installed forward of 39" barrier.

Certain 2012 model year Blue Bird "D3" All American model rear engine school buses manufactured from December 16, 2010 through May 03, 2011 and equipped with a 2-passenger seat installed forward of 39" barrier.

Certain 2006 through 2011 model year Blue Bird "Vision" model conventional school buses manufactured from October 21, 2005 through August 26, 2010 and equipped with 2-passenger seat installed forward of 39" barrier.

Certain 2006 model year conventional school buses manufactured from September 19, 2005 through December 13, 2005 and equipped with a 2-passenger seat installed forward of 39" barrier.

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



BLUE BIRD

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

Unknown

5. The noncompliance consists of:

On some seating arrangements a 2-passenger seat forward of a 39" barrier may be located too closely to one another. During FMVSS 222 forward performance barrier testing the subject 39" barrier may contact the 2-passenger seat installed forward of the barrier. This contact can create a non-conformance with section S5.2.3 (barrier performance forward) of FMVSS 222.

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

On September 14, 2011 Blue Bird received a report from NHTSA that during FMVSS 222 compliance testing a 39" barrier when deflected had contacted the 2-passenger seat installed just forward of the barrier and experienced a failure. Blue Bird began researching this issue and scheduled FMVSS 222 forward performance barrier testing to duplicate the test that NHTSA had performed and confirmed the results.

On October 06, 2011 Blue Bird completed its review of applicable seat plans to determine if this condition could exist on other buses.

On October 10, 2011 Blue Bird decided to conduct a recall to correct the non-compliance on 54 units found with seat plans that may potentially have a 2-passenger seat forward of the barrier in too close proximity to the 39" barrier.

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

On buses with track mounted seats the 2-passenger seat and/or the 39" barrier will be repositioned to provide adequate clearance to allow for barrier deflection.

On buses with standard floor mounted seats a new 39" barrier is being designed to provide less deflection. This barrier will replace the currently installed barrier.



BLUE BIRD

8. Notification will be as follows:

Distributor notification is scheduled to be mailed on November 28, 2011.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on November 28, 2011.

On those buses with floor mounted seats, new barriers are being designed. The owner letters for these buses will include a statement advising that they will be notified when the new designed barriers are available for shipment.

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

R11TQ

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