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By Recall Management Division at 8:20 am, Oct 18, 2011

October 17, 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 defect report.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on October 17, 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: R11TN Incorrect Rivet in Vertical Pushout Window Handle



PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: October 17, 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 2012 model year Blue Bird All American model school buses manufactured from August 10, 2011 through September 14, 2011.

Certain 2012 model year Blue Bird "Vision" model conventional buses manufactured from August 02, 2011 through August 28, 2011.

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

59

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The rivets used to install the handles on certain SpectAL Industries vertical emergency exit windows may have been incorrect. As a consequence, the handles may be susceptible to detaching from the window during operation. If the handle were to detach during an emergency, egress through the window may be hindered.



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

On August 17, 2011, SpectAL Industries advised Blue Bird of a potential defect on certain vertical pushout emergency exit windows wherein the rivet that attaches the window handle to the frame may be 1mm too short. The defect could potentially cause the window handle to fall off when operated. SpectAL Industries advised Blue Bird that they would be conducting an analysis of this condition and would report their finding to Blue Bird.

During August and September 2011, Spectal conducted quality testing on sample windows and conducted additional performance testing of the handle/plate system. Reference SpectAL Industries 49 CFR Part 573 Defect Notification for details of their testing.

During the remainder of September, SpectAL Industries investigated the potential cause of the failures found as well as the scope, population and consequences.

On October 04, 2011, based on the results of their analysis SpectAL Industries advised Blue Bird that they had determined that the rivet that attaches the handle to the window frame, if 1mm too short, could cause the window handle to detach during operation and that SpectAL Industries had determined this condition to be a potential safety related defect.

On October 13, after a review of SpectAL Industries analysis, Blue Bird decided this condition could constitute a safety related defect on its affected vehicles.

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

SpectAL Industries will supply repair kits which will contain the correct length rivets along with instructions which Blue Bird will ship to all affected owners.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on November 14, 2011.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on November 14, 2011.
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.



BLUE BIRD

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

R11TN

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