



BLUE BIRD

R11TQ

January 18, 2012

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Blue Bird Corporation has decided that certain school buses identified below by model year and model, may fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 222, S5.2.3 (Barrier Performance Forward).

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 a 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 30" seat forward of 39" barrier.

On some seating arrangements the 2-passenger seat forward of the 39" barrier may be installed too close to the 39" barrier. In the event of a vehicle crash the subject 39" barrier may contact the 2-passenger seat forward of the barrier which may increase the risk of injury to the occupant(s) of the 2-passenger seat. This creates a non-conformance with FMVSS 222 S5.2.3 (Barrier Performance Forward) requirements. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this condition.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall are identified by **body serial number(s)** on the enclosed reply sheets. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the **yellow** cover sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

The 2-passenger seat frame forward of the 39" seat must be replaced with a new 2-passenger seat frame designed to provide adequate clearance for the 39" barrier deflection. Instructions for replacing a 2-passenger seat frame are attached.

A new seat location decal indicating the appropriate seat to barrier spacing will be provided to place on the headlining panel above the wire molding adjacent to the new 2-passenger seat for buses equipped with track mounted seats. See instructions for decal location.

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021



Page 2

R11TQ

You may contact your Blue Bird dealer to arrange to have this recall performed. Or, if you prefer, you may perform this recall yourself or have a qualified repair facility convenient to you perform this recall. A qualified technician should perform this recall.

If you decide to perform Recall R11TQ yourself or have the recall performed by a local qualified repair facility, Blue Bird will ship replacement 2-passenger seat frame(s) to you at "no charge".

New replacement 2-passenger seat frames must be obtained through Blue Bird Recall Administration. The attached R11TQ 2-passenger seat frame order form must be completed and faxed (478-822-2467) or emailed to ([bill.coleman@blue-bird.com](mailto:bill.coleman@blue-bird.com)) at Blue Bird Recall Administration to receive replacement 2-passenger seat frames. **Replacement 2 passenger seats and decals are anticipated to be available within 60-90 days.**

Labor time to remove and replace a 2-passenger seat frame is 0.5hrs (30 minutes) per bus. Reimbursement for labor may be obtained by completing the enclosed **pink** request for reimbursement sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed **pink** postage prepaid envelope.

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attach a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the **pink** self-addressed postage paid envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236      TTY 1-800-424-9153    Or, go to: [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV)

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator



# 39" Barrier Behind 2-Passenger Seat Forward Performance Noncompliance

# RECALL

**Models Affected: Certain 2006 through 2011 Model Year All American and Vision Model Buses and certain 2006 Model Year Conventional Model Buses**

## ISSUE

On some seating arrangements the 2-passenger seat forward of the 39" barrier may be installed too close to the 39" barrier. In the event of a vehicle crash the subject 39" barrier may contact the 2-passenger seat forward of the barrier. This creates a non-conformance with FMVSS 222 S5.2.3 (Barrier Performance Forward) requirements.

## CORRECTIVE ACTION

The 2-passenger seat frame forward of the 39" seat must be replaced with a new 2-passenger seat frame designed to provide adequate clearance for the 39" barrier deflection. For track mounted seats, a new seat location decal is provided.

## PROCEDURE

**WARNING:** Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing these procedures. Observe all safety precautions when working underneath a bus.

**Note:** Seat(s) will be shipped to you fully assembled, including foam seat back pad and seat back upholstery.

1. Park bus on level surface, apply parking brakes, with engine off, remove ignition key and chock wheels.
2. **Wall/Floor Mounted Seats:** Remove existing 30" or 36" seat in front of 39" barrier by unbolting fasteners at the floor and wall connections. Retain fasteners for use in installing new seat. Position new seat in front of barrier so that you have minimum spacing of 28.88" from barrier front mounting hole on aisle side to front mounting hole of seat. If spacing is correct install new replacement seat using saved fasteners. If seat must be relocated, drill new holes in floor and wall ledge and attach using saved fasteners. Tighten under floor attachment nuts to 18-20 ft-lbs and wall attachment nuts to 12-13 ft-lbs. If seat was relocated, fill original holes left in floor with silicone sealer.
3. **Wall/Track Mounted seats:** Remove existing 30" or 36" seat in front of 39" barrier by unbolting fasteners at the floor and wall connections. Retain fasteners for use in installing new seat. Position new seat in front of barrier so that you have minimum spacing of 28.88" from barrier front mounting hole on aisle side to front mounting hole of seat. Drill new holes in wall ledge and attach using saved fasteners. Tighten track floor attachment nuts to 18-20 ft-lbs and wall attachment nuts to 12-13 ft-lbs. A new seat location decal indicating the appropriate seat to barrier spacing must be placed on the headlining panel no more than 1" above the wire molding, centered on the seat cushion, except at pushout windows and emergency exit doors, where it shall be placed no more than 1" above all other labels or decals.
4. **Fully Track Mounted Seats:** Remove existing 30" or 36" seat in front of 39" barrier by unbolting track fasteners. Retain fasteners for use in installing new seat. Position new seat in front of barrier so that you have minimum spacing of 28.88" from barrier front mounting hole on aisle side to front mounting hole of seat. Reinstall saved fasteners and tighten track floor attachment nuts to 18-20 ft-lbs. A new seat location decal indicating the appropriate seat to barrier spacing must be placed on the headlining panel no more than 1" above the wire molding, centered on the seat cushion, except at pushout windows and emergency exit doors, where it shall be placed no more than 1" above all other labels or decals.

R I I T O  
R E C A L L C A M P A I G N