



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

June 21, 2012

MR. WILLIAM COLEMAN
RECALL ADMINISTRATOR
BLUE BIRD CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 937
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

NVS-215kjs
12V-277

SUBJECT: TREADLE VALVE PLUNGER

DEAR MR. COLEMAN:

This letter serves to acknowledge Blue Bird Corporation's (Blue Bird) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
BLUE BIRD/ALL AMERICAN/2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 12V-277 **Mfg's Report Date:** June 15, 2012

Components: SERVICE BRAKES, AIR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 13

Summary:

BLUE BIRD IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2013 ALL AMERICAN REAR ENGINE SCHOOL BUSES AND ONE AFTERMARKET BRAKE TREADLE VALVE. THE AFFECTED BUSES WERE MANUFACTURED FROM DECEMBER 9, 2011, THROUGH MARCH 9, 2012. THE BRAKE VALVE PLUNGER MAY FRACTURE DURING BRAKE APPLICATION, RESULTING IN REDUCED BRAKE PEDAL ANGLE AND TRAVEL. THIS CONDITION MAY LIMIT THE DRIVER'S ABILITY TO DELIVER FULL PRESSURE FROM THE FOOT BRAKE VALVE. THERE IS ALSO A POTENTIAL THAT THE BRAKE PLUNGER COULD BECOME LODGED AND NOT ALLOW RELEASE OF THE SERVICE BRAKES.

Consequence:

EITHER CONDITION COULD REDUCE BRAKING ABILITY AND/OR LEAD TO LOSS OF VEHICLE CONTROL, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

ALL OF THE AFFECTED BUSES AND THE ONE AFTERMARKET TREADLE VALVE WERE SOLD THROUGH A-Z BUS SALES, A BLUE BIRD BUS DEALER. BLUE BIRD WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND A-Z BUS SALES WILL REPLACE ALL THIRTEEN TREADLE VALVES, FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON, OR ABOUT, JUNE 29, 2012. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BLUE BIRD AT 1-478-822-2242.

Notes:

BLUE BIRD'S RECALL CAMPAIGN NUMBER IS R12VF. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-423 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please provide the following additional information:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-5227, or by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation

Enforcement