



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 31, 2012

Mr. WILLIAM COLEMAN  
CORPORATE RECALL ADMINISTRATOR  
BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY  
PO BOX 937  
FORT VALLEY, GA 31030

NVS-215KS  
12V-359

**Subject:** Mismatched Driver's Seat Belt Buckles

Dear Mr. COLEMAN:

This letter serves to acknowledge BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) 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  
BLUE BIRD/VISION/2013

**Mfr's Report Date:** July 24, 2012

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 12V-359

**Components:**  
SEAT BELTS:FRONT:BUCKLE ASSEMBLY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 726

**Problem Description:**

Blue Bird is recalling model year 2013 All American and Vision school buses manufactured from April 30, 2012, through June 23, 2012. Driver's seat belts may have been inadvertently installed with mismatched buckles which fails to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies." The latch plate (tongue) on one style buckle may mate up to another style buckle receiver, but the latch plate may not be properly engaged.

**Consequence:**

Should this condition occur, the seat occupant may not be properly restrained and could be injured in an accident or sudden stop.

**Remedy:**

Blue Bird will notify owners, and dealers will repair the buses free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin on, or about, August 24, 2012. Owners may contact Blue Bird at 1-478-822-2242.

**Notes:**

Blue Bird's recall campaign number is R12VH. Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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 (202) 366-5227, or by email at [kelly.schuler@dot.gov](mailto:kelly.schuler@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "T".

Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement