



**BLUE BIRD**

**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management Division at 8:36 am, Apr 05, 2012

April 04, 2012

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 April 04, 2012.

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 Defect Notification: R12TU Braun Lift Outer Roll Stop Latch Recall

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

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



## PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

### Defect Report

**Report Date:** April 04, 2012

**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 2008 through 2011 model year Blue Bird All American, Vision and Micro-Bird buses manufactured from May 08, 2007 through August 07, 2010 and equipped with a Braun Vista-2 generation Dual Parallel Arm model wheelchair lift.

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

132

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

100%

**5. The defect consists of:**

The Braun Corporation advises that the location of the defect is the outboard end of the wheelchair lift platform, specifically at the outer barrier. The defect manifests itself when the roll stop latches are no longer capable of restraining the roll stop to prevent wheelchair passengers from defeating or riding over the roll stop. This is a result of ill maintenance related to damaged part replacement, or product misuse through high energy wheelchair/scooter impacts.

The consequence of the defect is that the roll stop and latch parts may not operate properly or may become bent or misaligned through impact or continued use, and a wheelchair occupant may defeat or ride over the insufficiently latched roll stop. If this occurs when the lift platform is in an elevated position, the wheelchair/passenger may fall to the ground and sustain injury.

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

On March 26, 2012 Blue Bird Corporation received notification of the defect from The Braun Corporation. The Braun Corporation advised that:

During the late summer of 2011, Braun received notice of a single complaint filed with NHTSA. This complaint prompted a NHTSA Preliminary Evaluation to assess the scope and severity of the alleged defect. Upon learning of the complaint, Braun objected to NHTSA's allegation of defect and acknowledged that it had earlier addressed roll stop latch/latch bracket damage issues via two Service Bulletins in April and June 2010. These Service Bulletins were created to address situations where damaged roll stop latches and latch brackets made roll stop securement questionable. After further consultation with NHTSA, Braun concluded it would conduct a voluntary recall in the interest of public safety.

Based on The Braun Corporation's basis for determination of the defect Blue Bird Corporation will issue a voluntary recall to all owners of its buses equipped with the subject lift.

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

Owners will be advised to discontinue use of their affected buses and contact their authorized Braun Corporation dealer to have an updated outer barrier bracket/latch assembly installed on their affected wheelchair lifts.

**8. Notification will be as follows:**

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on April 23, 2012.  
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on April 23, 2012.  
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R12TU



BLUE BIRD

**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