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By Recall Management Division at 3:19 pm, Jun 18, 2012

June 15, 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 June 15, 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: R12VF Bendix Brake Treadle Valve Plunger Recall



PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: June 15, 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 2013 Blue Bird All American rear engine school buses manufactured from December 09, 2011 through March 09, 2012 and equipped with a retarder transmission.

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

12 buses
1 aftermarket brake treadle valve

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

100%

5. The defect consists of:

Bendix advised Blue Bird that it had determined that an unapproved manufacturing modification at a Bendix sub-supplier had led to a potential defect. The modification resulted in a thin wall section that can potentially develop a 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. Bendix also determined there is a potential that the brake plunger could become lodged and not allow release of the service brakes. There have been no reports of any injuries or accidents related to this issue.



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

On June 08, 2012 Blue Bird received notification from Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC that Bendix had filed a 49 CFR Part 573 defect report with NHTSA regarding potentially defective plungers installed in certain brake treadle valves.

Blue Bird initiated a review of its brake treadle valve usage and determined that the subject brake treadle valves equipped with the suspect plunger were installed on twelve delivered buses and one brake treadle valve equipped with the suspect plunger was sold through Blue Bird's aftermarket operation.

On June 14, 2012 Blue Bird decided to issue a recall to correct this condition.

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

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC has provided replacement plungers for all twelve affected brake treadle valves to Blue Bird's dealer A-Z Bus Sales. A-Z Bus Sales will remove the defective brake treadle valve plungers and replace them with the new plungers provided by Bendix. A-Z Bus Sales will also remedy the aftermarket brake treadle valve.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Blue Bird dealer notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on June 29, 2012.
Blue Bird owner notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on June 29, 2012.
Bendix advises the replacement treadle valve plungers are available.

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

R12VF

10. Dealer and Owner Notification:

A draft copy of the notification documents will be submitted to NHTSA for review prior to mailing.



BLUE BIRD

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