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By Recall Management Division at 8:12 am, Jul 25, 2012

July 24, 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 573.6 Blue Bird Corporation is submitting the attached defect report.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on July 24, 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 573.6 Noncompliance Notification Report for R12VH Driver's Seat Belt Buckle Mismatch



**BLUE BIRD**

**49 CFR, PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting**

**Noncompliance Report**

**Report Date:** July 24, 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 model year Blue Bird All American and Vision model school buses manufactured from April 30, 2012 through June 23, 2012.

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

726

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

Unknown

**5. The noncompliance consists of:**

Driver's seat belts may have been inadvertently installed with mismatched buckles. The latch plate (tongue) on one style buckle may mate up to another style buckle receiver but latch plate may not be properly engaged. Should this condition occur, the seat occupant may not be properly restrained and could be injured in an accident or sudden stop.

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

On June 22, 2012 Blue Bird Quality Department reported the possibility that some driver's seat belts could have mismatched seat belt buckles.

An audit of 791 units at its manufacturing facility in Fort Valley Georgia was initiated. The audit found seven buses with mismatched driver's seat belt buckles.

Blue Bird received one report from a dealer of mismatched seat belt buckles.

On July 19, 2012 Blue Bird determined that driver's seat belts installed with mismatched buckles do not conform to FMVSS 209 "Seat Belt Assemblies", Section 4.4 "Requirements for Assembly Performance". No accidents or injuries have been reported as a result of this issue.

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

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



**BLUE BIRD**

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

Owners will be advised to inspect the driver's seat belt on their buses for mismatched buckles. Correct latch plate (tongue) side of the belt will be provided for any mismatched buckles found.

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

Blue Bird dealer notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on August 24, 2012.  
Blue Bird owner notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on August 24, 2012.  
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R12VH

**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