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12V-538
(4 pages)

November 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 573.6 Blue Bird Corporation is submitting the attached defect report.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on November 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 573.6 Noncompliance Notification Report for Recall R12VR Brake Light Switch Mounting Bracket Replacement



49 CFR, PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: November 14, 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 and 2014 model year Blue Bird Vision model school buses manufactured from January 10, 2012 through November 01, 2012 and equipped with Ford 6.8L propane engines.

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

452

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The brake light switch mounting bracket may have caused the brake light switch to be incorrectly adjusted at installation and/or the brake light switch mounting bracket may deform during a "hard" return of the brake pedal. An incorrectly adjusted brake light switch or deformed brake light switch mounting bracket may permit the brake lights to illuminate continuously.



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

During the summer of 2012 Blue Bird received reports from dealers of a stop lamp continuously "ON" condition on some Vision model buses equipped with the Ford 6.8L propane engines. A subsequent design review found a narrow adjustment tolerance on the service brake switch mounting bracket during installation at the factory. Some reports were also received that the mounting bracket could deform during a "hard" return of the brake pedal.

The service brake switch mounting bracket was redesigned to correct these conditions. Changes were made in production and a service bulletin was issued to both dealers and owners.

After further review Blue Bird determined on November 13, 2012 that a stop lamp exhibiting a continuously "ON" condition could result in a potential safety risk if other drivers were not able to see when the brakes were being applied.

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

A new redesigned service brake light switch mounting bracket along with a new brake light switch will be provided to dealers and/or owners to correct this condition on all affected buses.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on December 05, 2012.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on December 05, 2012.
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R12VR

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