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By Recall Management Division at 8:10 am, Dec 13, 2012

December 12, 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 December 12, 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 Defect Report for Recall R12VT Drag Link Castle Nut Torque



49 CFR, PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: December 12, 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 Vision Model conventional school buses
manufactured from August 27, 2012 to November 06, 2012.

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

222

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The castle nut that attaches the drag link to the steering arm may not have been torqued to factory specifications. Improperly torqued drag link castle nuts could cause excessive movement at the drag link to steering arm connection which could lead to potential separation of the drag link from the steering arm and loss of steering control.



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

In November 2012 while conducting an engineering and quality review of a chassis to troubleshoot a vibration issue it was noticed that the castle nut which secures the drag rod to the pitman arm was found to be torqued incorrectly. The incorrectly torqued castle nut was not a cause of the vibration however; subsequent investigation determined the operator who installs the castle nut was reducing the torque by backing off the castle nut to align the cotter pin in the castle nut, contrary to installation instructions.

Blue Bird Customer Service also advised that incorrectly torqued castle nuts had been reported during a state inspection in West Virginia.

No cotter pins that secure the castle nuts have been reported missing.

As a result of these findings Blue Bird decided on December 11, 2012 to issue a recall campaign to correct this defect.

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

Owners will be notified to check the drag link castle nut torque. Owners will also be advised to inspect steering arm for wear if castle nuts are found with improper torque.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about December 19, 2012.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about December 19, 2012.

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

R12VT

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