



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

January 10, 2014

Mr. William Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company
PO Box 937
Fort Valley, GA 31030

NVS-215KS
13V-643

Subject: Parking Brake may Unexpectedly Release

Dear Mr. Coleman:

This letter serves to acknowledge Blue Bird Body Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

BLUE BIRD/ALL AMERICAN/2014-2015
BLUE BIRD/VISION/2014-2015

Mfr's Report Date: December 23, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-643

Components:

PARKING BRAKE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 263

Problem Description:

Blue Bird Corporation is recalling certain 2014-2015 model year All American and Vision school buses manufactured from September 24, 2013, through December 6, 2013. In the affected vehicles, the hydraulic park brake pedal arm may not have been properly heat treated and may fracture causing the parking brake to release without warning.

Consequence:

If the park brake pedal arm fractures, the bus may unexpectedly roll increasing the risk of personal injury or a vehicle crash.

Remedy:

Blue Bird has notified owners and dealers will install a new parking brake assembly, free of charge. The recall is began on January 2, 2014. Owners may contact Blue Bird at 1-478-822-2242. Blue Bird's number for this recall is R13WT.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

We received Blue Bird's proposed owner notification letter, reviewed it, and provided our feedback prior to the letters being mailed.

Please provide the name, address, phone, and a contact representative for the supplier of the brake pedal, and as required by 49 CFR 573.6(c)(2)(iv).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

On August 20, 2013, NHTSA announced new changes to the requirements governing safety recalls. Some of these requirements are already in effect. Please ensure your company will be in compliance with each requirement on, or before, its respective effective date. For a summary of the requirements and their effective dates please click on the "New!" link at <http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Manufacturers>.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement