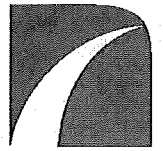


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By Recall Management Division at 7:22 am, Jan 11, 2013

13-011
(4 pages)



North American
Bus Industries, Inc.

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January 10, 2013

Nancy L. Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
Attn: Recall Management Division

Subject: NABI Safety Recall #20131

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Attached is a Vehicle Defect Initial Information Report, which is being submitted by North American Bus Industries, Inc. pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573.

The undersigned should be contacted for any additional information regarding this recall.

Sincerely,

North American Bus Industries, Inc. (NABI)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan C. Allen".

Dan C. Allen
Chief Engineer
Ph. 256 453 2242

Enclosures

NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES (NABI)

VEHICLE DEFECT
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Date: January 10, 2013

NABI Recall No. 20131

MAKE	MODEL	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	MANUFACTURED DATES FROM THROUGH	OTHER IDENTIFICATION NECESSARY TO DESCRIBE VEHICLE
Blue Bird	L4RE	2007-2009	53	July 1, 2007 Oct. 31, 2009	Certain Blue Bird L4RE model city transit buses built by NABI, Inc.

Total Number of Vehicles: **53**

Percent Potentially Containing Defect: Estimated 100%

NORTH AMERICAN BUS INDUSTRIES, Inc. (NABI)

NABI RECALL NO. 20131

VEHICLE DEFECT
INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT

Certain Blue Bird L4RE model city transit buses, manufactured by NABI, may have a defective steering gear attachment.

RISK TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY: Cracks may develop in the bracket that secures the power steering gear to the bus frame. Cracks may also develop in the bus frame around the bolts that attach the steering gear bracket to the bus frame. If left unchecked, the cracks may propagate resulting in a partial separation of the steering gear from the bus frame. Should this occur, a loss of steering control could occur resulting in a vehicle accident.

1) CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS WHICH LED TO DETERMINATION OF DEFECT:

10/26/12 NABI field service reported that some cracks were observed in the chassis frame around some of the bolts that hold the steering gear bracket to the chassis frame on a Blue Bird L4RE bus being inspected at Macon. It was decided to include this area in a representative field inspection of NABI built L4RE model buses in the field to determine if this problem existed on other buses.

11/28/12 Additional L4RE model buses in the field were found with hairline cracks in the frame around the mounting bolts and cracks in the steering gear bracket during the field investigation. There were no issues noted of the attachment of the steering gear to the bracket. An investigation into the cause of the cracks was underway to determine if these cracks may propagate and result in an unsafe condition. Discussions between NABI and Blue Bird were opened to gain additional information regarding this issue.

1/4/13 A review of the investigation progress and information available was conducted by the NABI Product Compliance Committee. While there have been no reports of separation of the steering bracket from the bus frame, the committee determined that a field campaign should be initiated to ensure the cracks will not propagate further and result in a separation of the steering gear bracket from the bus frame. A determination was made that this is a safety related defect and a recall should be initiated on all NABI built Blue Bird L4RE model buses to remedy this issue.

2) REMEDY EXPENSE: NABI will inspect and repair the affected vehicles free of charge.

- 3) EARLIEST DATE TO BE REMEDIED: March 2013
- 4) PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: There will be no public announcement.
- 5) OWNER LETTER: A draft of the customer notification letter will be sent to NHTSA for review and approval.