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13V-126
(4 pages)

April 08, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis,

In accordance with the requirements of CFR 49 Part 573.6 Blue Bird Corporation is submitting the attached defect reports.

Defect reports for both school bus and non-school bus units affected by R13WD are attached.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on April 08, 2013.

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 R13WD Grid Heater
Power Supply Cable May Contact Chassis Frame Rail



BLUE BIRD

49 CFR, PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report

Report Date: April 08, 2013

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 Blue Bird 2008 through 2011 model year All American rear engine model non-school buses manufactured from 12-08-07 through 03-03-10 and equipped with Cummins ISB07 engines.

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

17

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

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

The grid heater power cable may be improperly routed which could result in contact with the chassis frame rail. If the cable contacts the chassis frame rail it could potentially chafe against the frame thereby creating a direct short which could result in a fire.



BLUE BIRD

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

On January 25, 2013 Blue Bird received a report from a dealer of the grid heater power cable shorting against the chassis frame rail resulting in the cable melting.

The dealer also reported that two additional units at the same location were inspected and found to have the grid heater power cable contacting the chassis frame rail. The cables were repositioned to prevent further contact.

On January 29, 2013 Blue Bird initiated an inspection of additional units to determine the extent of this condition.

On March 14, 2013 inspections were completed and 14 additional units were found with the grid heater power cable contacting the chassis frame rail. These cables were repositioned to prevent further contact.

On April 03, 2013 Blue Bird decided to conduct a recall to correct this condition.

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

The subject buses will be inspected for proper positioning of the grid heater power cable. Any cables found contacting the chassis frame rail will have the grid heater cable repositioned to prevent further contact. Any damages cables found will be replaced.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on May 05, 2013.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on May 05, 2013.

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R13WD



BLUE BIRD

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