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13V-577
(4 pages)

November 20, 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 Body Company is submitting the attached noncompliance report.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on November 20, 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 Report for Recall R13WS IMMI L9 Drivers Seat Belt Recall

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY

P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021



49 CFR, PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Noncompliance Report

Report Date: November 20, 2013

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Blue Bird Corporation
P. O. Box 937
Fort Valley, GA 31030

2. The defective component was manufactured by:

Indiana Mills and Manufacturing
18881 US 31 North
Westfield IN 46074
Lisa Hanson
Director of Corporate Quality
317-867-8451

3. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Certain 2014 model year Blue Bird Vision and All American model non-school buses manufactured from August 23, 2013 through November 06, 2013 and equipped with IMMI L9 driver's seat belts.

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

146

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

Unknown

6. The defect consists of:

The suspect IMMI L9 driver's seat belt buckles may contain locking pawls which were produced with an excessively large burr on the locking surface. When the push button on the buckle is pressed to release the latch plate for egress, the latch plate can become partially engaged with the buckle. Under this circumstance the partially engaged latch plate may not separate from the buckle when a force of 22N is applied. Buckles with this condition do not comply with FMVSS 209. In the event of an accident and the seat belt should not properly release, driver's may be subject to personal injury. Blue Bird is not aware of any incidents related to this issue.

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

On November 12, 2013 Blue Bird received notification from IMMI that it had decided to conduct a recall to correct a noncompliance on certain IMMI L9 driver's seat belts.

Subsequent review of the information submitted by IMMI found the subject IMMI L9 driver's seat belts had been installed in certain Blue Bird model buses.

On November 13, 2013 Blue Bird decided to conduct a recall campaign to correct this noncompliance on the affected model buses.

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

Buses manufactured with the suspect IMMI L9 driver's seat belt will have the driver's seat belt buckle IMMI date code inspected. Date codes found within the defective IMMI date code range will be removed and replaced with new driver's seat belt buckles.

9. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about December 19, 2013.

Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on December 19, 2013.

Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R13WS

11. 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 Body Company
P.O. Box 937
Fort Valley GA 31030
(478) 822-2242

Signed: _____



William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator