



R13WN

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE
NHTSA RECALL NO. 13V-480

December 17, 2013

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This important safety recall notice applies to your buses identified by both Blue Bird Body Number and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the attached yellow cover sheet.

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Body Company has decided in conjunction with Sure Power Inc. a division of Eaton's Controls and Power Conversion that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Blue Bird commercial series non-school buses built with split 12/24 volt electrical systems and equipped with Sure Power battery equalizers. The subject buses were manufactured as indicated below by model year and commercial bus model.

Blue Bird 2004 model year Ultra LMB model commercial buses delivered from June 19, 2003 through March 28, 2006.

Blue Bird 2003 through 2006 model year Ultra LF model commercial buses delivered from March 14, 2003 through April 01, 2008.

Blue Bird 2004 through 2007 model year Express 4000 model commercial buses delivered from September 27, 2003 through April 03, 2007.

Blue Bird 2004 through 2007 model year Express 4500 model commercial buses delivered from March 15, 2004 through May 19, 2007.

Certain Sure Power, Inc. battery equalizers sold through Blue Bird Aftermarket Parts Sales from July 15, 2005 through February 08, 2011.

Sure Power has advised Blue Bird that the subject buses have an electrical component in the battery equalizer which may experience a failure mode potentially resulting in smoke being emitted or excessive heat being produced which could possibly result in melting and burning increasing the risk of a fire. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

To correct this condition the battery equalizer part number must be determined. If the battery equalizer part number is found to be one of the defective battery equalizer part numbers, it must be replaced. The part number, serial number, date inspected and body number must be recorded on the attached ***Recall R13WN Inspection Reply Sheet*** and returned to Blue Bird Body Company in one of the pink postage prepaid envelopes.

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



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Replacement battery equalizers will be shipped to you from Sure Power Inc. or its designee at no charge to you. Replacement battery equalizers are anticipated to be available from Sure Power Inc. in the first quarter of 2014. You must provide the correct shipping address, contact name and telephone number on the enclosed *Recall R13WN Inspection Reply Sheet* in order to receive replacement battery equalizers. A qualified technician should perform both the inspection and, if needed, removal and replacement of the battery equalizer.

Time allowed for inspecting and recording the battery equalizer part number and serial number is 0.1 hour per bus.

If required, time allowed to remove and replace the battery equalizer is 2.0 hours per bus. This includes time for inspecting and recording the battery equalizer serial number. Defective battery equalizers removed must be disposed of according to Federal, State and local government requirements.

To receive reimbursement for labor you must complete the attached pink *R13WN Recall Reimbursement Sheet* and return to Blue Bird Recall Administration in the pink self-addressed postage paid reply envelope so our records may be updated. This will prevent you from receiving further follow up notices. The completed pink *R13WN Recall Reimbursement Sheet* may also be faxed to 478-822-2467.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attached a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the **pink** self-addressed postage paid envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236 TTY 1-800-424-9153; Or, go to: [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV)

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY



Models Affected: 2004 Ultra LMB (L3RE), 2003-2006 Ultra LF (L4RE), 2004-2007 Express (M4RE)

ISSUE

An electrical component in the battery equalizer may experience a failure mode potentially resulting in smoke being emitted or excessive heat being produced which could possibly result in a fire which could cause property damage or result in injury to vehicle occupants.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Inspect battery equalizers for product serial number. Replacement battery equalizers for those that fall within the suspect product serial number range will be shipped to you at no charge.

PROCEDURE

WARNING: Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment, and thoroughly read and understand all instructions before performing these procedures.

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface, apply parking brake, turn engine off, remove key and chock wheels.
2. Open the battery compartment and disconnect the battery ground and positive cables from the battery terminals.

[CAUTION] When disconnecting the batteries, remove the Negative cable first.

3. Locate the Sure Power battery equalizer. See detail views on page 2 for location by product type.
4. The battery equalizer must be inspected and the serial number, date inspected and body number or vehicle identification number recorded on the attached Recall R13WN Inspection Reply Sheet.
5. No replacement is required if the product serial number does NOT fall within the suspect range.
6. If the product serial number falls within the suspect serial number range remove and replace per the following:
 - a. Disconnect the ground, 12 volt, and 24 volt, positive cables from the equalizer by removing the isolation nut (retain for installation step).
 - b. Remove existing fuse and flat washer from equalizer (retain for installation step).
 - c. Remove six (6) equalizer mounting screws (retain for installation step).
 - d. Install replacement equalizer (supplied) with six screws removed in step “c”.
 - e. Install flat washer and fuse removed in step “b” (see detail A).
 - f. Install isolation nut removed in step “a” (see detail A on page 2) and torque to 100 inch-lbs. **Be careful not to over-torque**
7. Replacement battery equalizers for those that fall within the suspect product serial number range will be shipped to you at no charge. You must provide the correct shipping address, contact name and telephone number on the attached Recall R13WN reply sheet in order to receive replacement battery equalizers.

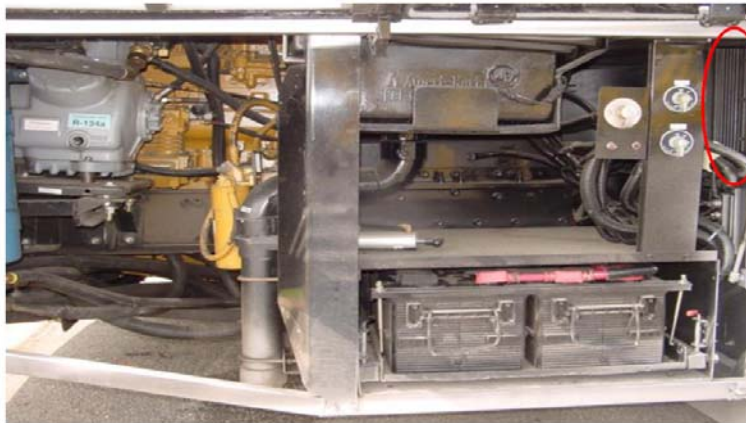
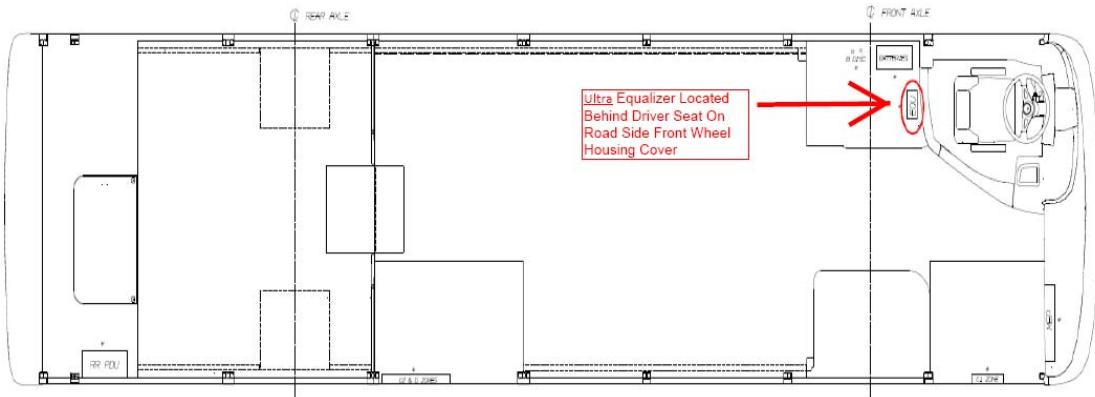
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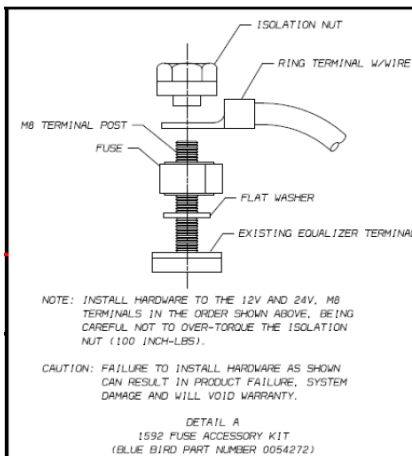
Sure Power Battery Equalizer

RECALL

There is only one label location on the product as shown in the picture below, with the serial number in the white section on the end opposite the terminals:



Express Equalizer Located Curb Side On RH Side Above The Battery Tray



R I 3 W N
R E C A L L C A M P A I G N